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Spanish sailor, Briton killed

MADRID (AP) — A Spanish navy sailor hurt in a missile launching exercise in the Gulf died Wednesday in an Abu Dhabi hospital, a Defence Ministry spokesman said. The accident took place Tuesday when the recoil action of a missile launcher struck and seriously injured Petty Officer Ignacio Romero Romero, 22, during a weapons exercise on the Spanish frigate Numancia, said ministry spokesman Pedro Meyer. The sailor died at Abu Dhabi's central hospital, where he had been transported by helicopter, Meyer said. A member of the royal medical corps died of a gunshot wound to the head, a British military spokesman said Tuesday. No other soldiers were involved in the shooting, the spokesman said. The royal military police were investigating. The body of Richard Gowing, 30, who was based with the 400-bed 33rd field hospital, was found Friday at a tented camp near Jubail in northeastern Saudi Arabia. Details were not announced until Tuesday. Fifty American military personnel and one Frenchman have also died since Operation Desert Shield began Aug. 7, most of them in air crashes and accidents.

Velayati in Paris for Gulf talks

PARIS (R) — Ali Akbar Velayati, the first Iranian foreign minister to visit France officially since the 1979 Islamic revolution, arrived in Paris Wednesday for talks on the Gulf and on rebuilding bilateral ties. Velayati went straight into talks with his French counterpart, Roland Dumas. He was to meet President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Michel Rocard Thursday. Tehran has been alarmed by indications France could accept a redrawing of Kuwait's borders in return for an Iraqi withdrawal. Tehran Radio, apparently referring to remarks by French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement on possible territorial concessions to Iraq, repeated Wednesday that Iran opposed any change in the region's borders. French officials said the situation in the Gulf would top discussions on international developments. The Iranian news agency IRNA said Velayati would discuss diplomatic moves following a United Nations resolution authorising the use of force against Iraq.

Protesters disrupt Wellington assembly

WELLINGTON (AP) — A man who splashed himself with animal blood to protest New Zealand's military involvement in the Gulf disrupted parliament Wednesday, scuffling with three politicians. The man, who was not identified, jumped four metres from the public gallery before being overpowered by three members of parliament, led by Police Minister John Banks. The man was taken into custody. Three women who had been sitting in the public gallery started the protest by climbing into large white plastic bags to symbolise body bags. Two of the women then draped a cloth banner over the gallery's ledge which read: "Send MPs to fight in Gulf."

Yemen urges Arab summit

BAGHDAD (R) — Yemeni Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh, fresh from talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, called for an Arab summit to prevent war engulfing the entire region.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) Wednesday quoted Beedh as issuing the call after talks in Baghdad with Saddam. His Majesty King Hussein and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. "This summit aims at preventing a destructive war in the region which... will reach every corner of the Arab Homeland and will harm all the Arab people," said Beedh, who had fresh talks with Saddam Wednesday after the four day discussions on Tuesday.

Palestinian sources said senior officials from Iraq, Jordan, Yemen and the PLO had further talks on the Gulf crisis in Baghdad Wednesday. The sources had no details.

Saddam also chaired a meeting between Iraq's supreme body, the Revolutionary Command Council, and the leadership of the ruling Baath Party. Such joint meetings are sometimes followed by major policy statements.

In the only information issued on Tuesday's talks, INA said the four leaders were convinced "that it is necessary to work at the Arab and international levels to solve all the region's problems, especially the Palestinian question."

U.S. will use sudden, massive force — Baker

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State James Baker said Wednesday the United States would employ force suddenly, massively and decisively if Iraq refused to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait and release all foreign nationals.

Testifying to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Baker said: "Our aim is that if force must be used, it will be used suddenly, massively and decisively."

The economic squeeze imposed by the U.N. Security Council after the Aug. 2 invasion "has had little, if any, effect on (Iraq's) inclination to withdraw," Baker told the committee.

He stopped short of saying the Bush administration would launch an attack after Jan. 15. The United States pushed for a U.N. Security Council proposal, established last week, demanding that Iraq quit Kuwait by Jan. 15 or face attack.

But like Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, Baker left no doubt U.S. policy will not depend on economic sanctions alone to reverse the invasion.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "must be stopped, peacefully if possible, but by force if necessary," Baker said.

"We must show Saddam Hus-



VICTIM OF SANCTION: An Iraqi child undergoing treatment in a Baghdad hospital. Iraq had said that over 1,400 Iraqi children have died because of malnutrition and lack of medicine as a result of the international sanctions against Iraq (Photo by Norbert Schiller)

Bush pessimistic talks will settle Gulf crisis

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — President George Bush Wednesday expressed doubt that direct talks between the United States and Iraq would produce a settlement of the Gulf crisis.

"I'm not optimistic. I see no evidence that (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein is ready to comply fully, without condition, with the U.N. resolutions," Bush said, referring to demands by the world body for a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Bush's comments came when he was asked at a joint news conference with Argentine President Carlos Menem about reports from Baghdad the Iraq was ready to soften its position on removing its troops from Kuwait.

"Who's your source? Who's saying it?" Bush asked the reporter who said that a senior Iraqi official had let it be known that everything would be on the table in proposed talks between Washington and Baghdad.

"Iraq has agreed in principle to Bush's proposal for high-level talks on the Gulf crisis but has not formally responded to the president's offer and no date has been set for the talks."

"We hear so many rumours about deals and yet every time an Iraqi official speaks on the record it is that they will not withdraw from Kuwait," Bush said. "My view, and I think it's the view of the entire world... is that they must withdraw without condition."

Bush's response was endorsed by Menem. "I share everything that has been said here by the president of the United States. An aggressor cannot condition his withdrawal on the satisfaction of his conditions. The only way is for Iraq to withdraw without any preconditions," the Argentine leader said.

Bush will meet with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Washington on Dec. 17, a French radio network reported Wednesday. But the White House said no date had been set.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), made the disclosure to Radio France Internationale.

Abed Rabbo attended a meeting Tuesday in Baghdad of senior

injuries, including one hit in the eye. Troops clamped a curfew on the town centre.

In Gaza, soldiers shot and wounded eight people during a similar march by some 1,000 people, Palestinians said.

In the West Bank town of Jenin, unknown assailants shot dead Harb Hindawi, 45, suspected of being an Israeli informer, military sources said.

Israeli soldiers destroyed the homes of two West Bank Palestinians serving life sentences for allegedly killing Arabs suspected of helping Israel, military sources said.

In a sweeping new security measure, hundreds of police have set up checkpoints along Israel's 1967 borders and frisked Palestinians driving from the occupied territories into Israel.

News reports said Defence Minister Moshe Arens plans other steps — including renewing expulsion of Palestinians and blocking thousands more Arabs from entering Israel — following a wave of stabbing attacks on Israelis.

Witnesses said some 400 Palestinians, waving banners and Palestinian flags, marched in the centre of the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Protesters clashed with Israeli soldiers who fired rubber bullets and tear-gas to disperse them. Hospital sources said eight people were treated for rubber bullet

Badran meets Hammadi

AMMAN (J.T) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Wednesday held talks with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

During the meeting, which was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Mesadeh and Minister of Industry and Trade Ziad Fariz, Badran and Hammadi discussed issues of mutual interest, it said. The meeting was also attended by the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Amman.

The Iraqi minister arrived in Jordan from Sudan where he delivered a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to Sudanese military leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir. The contents of the message were not disclosed.

While in Sudan, Hammadi reiterated Iraq's support for a just solution to all regional issues, particularly the Palestinian problem. He said Iraq will present that position to the United States when officials of the two countries meet for talks on the Gulf crisis.

Badran hits MPs for 'showmanship'

By Abdullah Hasanat

AMMAN — In answer to questions and charges ranging from cancelling martial law to curbing prostitution, Prime Minister Mudar Badran Wednesday lashed out at deputies and described their speeches as a "show" intended only to embarrass the government.

The most serious of a long list of charges, made by a number of deputies, accused Badran's government of failing to fulfil a pledge it had made earlier to abolish martial law. The prime minister said that these laws could not be abolished without a suitable alternative.

"The alternative is already with you," Badran said referring to a draft defence law that the government had presented to Parliament in its last session.

The prime minister said issues like national security could not be left "unattended to" in the absence of proper legislation. Badran, in his government programme last year, pledged to abolish martial laws within six months.

Answering a query by Amman Deputy Fakhri Kawa (Democratic Bloc) on why the Kingdom continues to import American goods when many are calling for a boycott of these products, the premier said: "We in Jordan have not decided on boycotting any country."

He said Jordan floats tenders and accords contracts to the best bidders. Badran, addressing Kawa, said: "I find this very strange coming from a deputy who just returned from a two-week visit to the U.S."

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Independent deputy Ahmad Owaidi Al Abbadi also criticised Jordan Television and demanded JTV abstain from transmitting the traditional new year celebrations from Europe.

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Saddam meets Connolly

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein conferred Wednesday with former U.S. Treasury Secretary John Connolly who apparently is trying to negotiate the release of employees of a Texas oil company held in Iraq. Connolly, a member of the board of Coastal Corp., was accompanied by Oscar Wyatt, the head of the Houston-based oil and gas company, the Iraqi News Agency reported. The agency said those attending the meeting also included Saddam's closest aide, First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, Information Minister Latif Jassim and the speaker of the National Assembly, Sadi Mehdi Saleh.

Israel party head visits Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali Wednesday met the most senior Israeli official to visit Cairo in 15 months, diplomats said. "The Egyptians invited rabbi Avraham Ravitz to explore the different trends within Israel," an Israeli embassy official told Reuters. The rabbi is the leader of the small orthodox Degel Hatorah party which has two members in the Knesset. He is also deputy housing minister.

Dubai defers show

DUBAI (R) — Dubai has postponed until November a major aerospace and defence exhibition, scheduled to open next month, because of a U.N. deadline for possible war in the Gulf. "A number of overseas companies had requested the new date after the United Nations' January 15 ultimatum to Iraq," a statement from the organisers, quoting Dubai's civil aviation head, said Wednesday.

Coup bid reported in Mauritania

NOUAKCHOTT (AP) — Authorities arrested as many as 300 civilians and military personnel after an alleged coup attempt last week, informal sources said Wednesday. Members of the Mauritania marines were among those arrested following the Nov. 27 coup attempt by black Mauritians, the sources said. It would be the second coup attempt in three years organised by black Mauritians.

Israelis bolster S. Lebanon forces

RASHAYA, Lebanon (R) — Israel has bolstered its forces in South Lebanon following an upsurge in guerrilla attacks, sources said Wednesday. They said 20 Israeli armoured vehicles had moved to five frontline positions in the eastern sector of Israel's self-proclaimed South Lebanon "security zone" within the past 24 hours. The deployment follows a spate of recent attacks by Lebanese and Palestinian resistance fighters on Israeli troops and their military allies of the South Lebanon Army (SLA). Five Israeli soldiers and two Palestinian guerrillas were killed in a clash on Nov. 26. SLA militiamen killed five Lebanese fighters inside the zone Monday.

Kuwaiti delegation speaks out against Gulf build-up

By Lamis K. Andoni

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — At the end of a five-day visit to Jordan, a Kuwaiti delegation which is seeking public support against Baghdad remained uncompromising in its demands for a complete Iraqi withdrawal from the emirate but shifted to a tougher position against the U.S.-led military build-up in the Gulf.

At a press conference it held before their departure for Cairo, the delegation's members also stressed opposition to military attacks against Iraq prior or after its withdrawal.

"We are against any assault to destroy Iraq... the destruction of Iraq will be a destruction of the Arab World," Mohammad Jassem Al Sager, the former editor in chief of the influential Kuwaiti Al Qabas daily, said stressing that the delegation's views reflected the popular and not the official opinion in Kuwait.

Statements by the Kuwaiti visitors, including former officials, opposition leaders and prominent writers, sharply contrasted with the toppled Al Sabah family's repeated support for military action against Baghdad.

The delegation's members, including the opposition figures, however, appeared reluctant to allow their differences with Al Sabah family to evolve into a serious rift which could undermine their struggle to restore Kuwait. According to one member of the delegation who preferred anonymity, critics and opponents of the government will continue to insist on the reinstatement of the emiri family in power and will address their differences

after a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

But political analysts here believe that if the delegation, which is touring Arab countries, continues to make such statements Al Sabah family will either be under pressure to appease Kuwaiti public opinion or a rift might emerge even prior to an Iraqi withdrawal.

At the press conference here some members of the delegation implicitly challenged the Sabah family's claims that it had sought American help to liberate Kuwait.

"Regardless of whether Iraq would have entered Kuwait or not, there had been an American plan to send troops to the region. But the (Iraqi move) provided the U.S. with a golden opportunity to justify their step," Sager said.

"They (foreign troops) are not here to defend Kuwait. They are here to defend their interests," he said after being repeatedly challenged by local journalists to prove that Kuwait was not involved in a plot to undermine Iraq.

But all of the delegates vehemently argued that an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait was not only a key to a settlement of the crisis but also crucial to Arab demands for the departure of foreign troops from the region.

Some even vowed to join Iraq in its confrontation with the West if Baghdad pulled out its army from Kuwait.

"In our view the presence of Iraqi troops in Kuwait increases the possibilities of an attack against Iraq. After the withdrawal of Iraqi troops we are ready to join an Arab front behind Iraq against the foreign troops in the region," said Dr. Ahmad Al Rab'i, a leading

(Continued on page 5)

U.S. Democrats want war declaration before assault

Bush says he is in no mood to 'negotiate'

WASHINGTON (R) — Congressional Democrats voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to seek a declaration of war from Congress before attacking Iraqi troops in the Gulf, the first such formal signal of concern.

The vote came as a lawyer for Bush and an attorney for 54 Democratic members of Congress clashed in federal court over whether Bush must get congressional approval before going to war against Iraq.

The 177-37 vote by the Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives was in response to Bush's decision last month to boost the U.S. military force in the Gulf to about 400,000 troops to go on the offensive if necessary.

The resolution does not bind Bush to any action. The first formal congressional signal of concern over Bush's Nov. 8 decision came amid fears the U.S. constitution might be heading towards war and congressional urging that U.N. economic sanctions against Iraq be given time to work.

The resolution adopted behind closed doors stated that no offensive action shall be initiated without the approval required under the U.S. constitution, "except to protect American lives from imminent endangerment."

Officials of the Republican administration have said the president requires no extra authority from Congress to send troops into

combat. The resolution also said the Democrats supported Bush's efforts to defend Saudi Arabia, demanded that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait and supported Bush's diplomatic and economic moves to resolve the Gulf crisis.

Congress opens its new session on Jan. 3. The United Nations has authorized the use of force to get Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait from the Jan. 15.

The resolution does not preclude a vote to go to war.

A lawyer representing Bush faced an attorney for 53 House members and one senator in a hearing before Federal Judge Harold Greene which has important ramifications for Bush's Gulf policy.

Assistant Attorney General Stuart Gerson, representing the administration, said the constitution gave the president broad powers to send troops abroad and it would be wrong for the courts to restrict Bush's options in the Gulf crisis.

But Jules Lobel, the attorney for the Democratic lawmakers, said only Congress had the power under the constitution to declare war. He asked the judge to bar Bush from launching a military attack against Iraq without congressional approval.

Greene seemed sceptical about whether he had the authority to prevent Bush from attacking Iraq.

He did not immediately make a

decision and gave no indication when he would rule.

Bush Tuesday rejected calls in Congress to rely on sanctions to drive Iraq from Kuwait but Robert McNamara, a prominent Vietnam war strategist, added his voice to those urging patience in the Gulf crisis.

Bush, travelling in Uruguay, said that if Iraq agrees to send Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to the White House next week as he has proposed, "the message is: get out of Kuwait in full compliance with all U.N. resolutions."

"I'm not in a negotiating mood, or anything of that nature, when I meet Aziz," Bush said during a news conference with Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle in Montevideo.

"The best hope for peace is for him (Iraqi President Saddam Hussein) to understand that all means, all means necessary, to fulfill these (U.N.) resolutions will be used against him, and I hope he gets the message," Bush said.

He said he disagreed with retired navy Admiral William Crowe and retired air force General David Jones, former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff who testified at congressional hearings last week that the economic squeeze of Iraq should be tried for up to 18 months before using force.

"I don't agree with that," Bush said. "I have not been one who

has been confident that sanctions alone would bring (Iraq) to (its) senses."

In Washington, McNamara — who oversaw the U.S.-Vietnam war effort as defence secretary in the 1960s and once uttered a famous reassurance that he saw "light at the end of the tunnel" — joined the retired military brass and many congressional Democrats in favouring more time for sanctions.

"Surely we should be prepared to extend the sanctions over a 12- or 18-month period if that offers an opportunity to achieve our political objective without the loss of American lives," McNamara said in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"Who can doubt that a year of blockade will be cheaper than a week of war?"

He said a lesson of the Vietnam war was that a president should not initiate military action without the people's support.

He added that, in his view, reliance on a long period of sanctions would weaken Iraq militarily far more rapidly than the harsh desert environment would diminish the readiness of U.S. forces.

Committee Chairman Claiborne Pell, a Democrat, said sanctions were an alternative to military actions by mostly American forces and added that "our United Nations allies are more than willing to fight to the last American."

Iraqi Jew remembers a 'different' Saddam

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

OR YEHUDA — A Jewish museum in central Israel seems an unlikely place in which to hear about Saddam Hussein's warmth.

Most Israelis know him as the Arab dictator whose threats have forced them to get gas masks. But Vicky, a Jewish immigrant from Iraq, remembers him as the man who comforted her when she came to him for help in getting her husband out of prison.

Another woman recalled being protected from anti-Jewish riots by Saddam's family in his home village of Tikrit.

The two women spoke at the Babylonian Jewry Heritage Centre in Or Yehuda, an immigrant town outside Tel Aviv, at a discussion Sunday titled "Saddam Hussein's mind-set on Jews, Israelis and Zionists."

Vicky did not want her surname published because, she said, she still has relatives in Iraq. She told her story in Hebrew laced with Iraqi idioms, sitting next to her husband who she believes was saved from the gallows with Saddam's help.

In 1968, a coup had installed Saddam as Iraq's number two man behind Ahmad Hasan Al Bakr. The previous regime had jailed many Jews, including Vicky's husband and her brother, as alleged spies. She and her sister-in-law Naima were desperate.

One day, she recalled, an acquaintance gave her the address of a man named Saddam Hussein. "I said, who is this Saddam? Isn't he against the Jews?" The acquaintance reassured her: "He's not against anybody."

Next day she and Naima went to the address next to the Yarmouk Mosque in Baghdad. They asked a passerby where they could find Saddam Hussein. "I am Saddam Hussein," he replied.

She hadn't expected a man wearing a simple Arab robe and living in a relatively humble house. "I got a fright, of course, I started crying and fell around his shoulders. He said, 'sister, what's the matter?'"

He invited the women into his house and his wife, Sajida, served coffee.

"How do you know your husband is innocent?" Saddam asked.

"I know. A wife has to know everything," Vicky recalled answering.

Saddam retorted: "When I made the revolution, my wife knew nothing about it."

But he promised to look into the case, and told Vicky to visit whenever she liked.

She came to the house eight times hoping for news. She became friendly with Sajida and Saddam's mother. Saddam had spent time in prison, and Sajida told Vicky, "I know what you're going through. I tasted it too."

The last time she saw Saddam, he had changed. He wore a Western suit, and tanks guarded the house by Yarmouk Mosque. He told her there was testimony implicating her husband, and that he would be interrogated further.

"I knew he was being tortured. I said, 'What piece of his body will be left to interrogate?' I was very cheeky. He said, 'That's the way it is. We will investigate, and every spy we find will be hanged.'" He spoke sternly, wagging a fin-



Saddam Hussein

ger, and told her not to come again.

In January 1969, when the Iraqis hanged 13 Jews, Vicky's husband and his brother were sentenced to three years in prison. Vicky is convinced they received a relatively light sentence because Saddam took a personal interest.

After the men were released, the family immigrated to Israel.

How does she feel when she hears U.S. President George Bush likening Saddam to Hitler? She gaped for words. "I don't know," she said. "To me he was good."

Raya, who also said that her surname not be published, grew up in Saddam's village of Tikrit and remembers her parents' friendship with his family.

She said her father, a wealthy businessman who brought electrical power to Tikrit, lent his car to drive Saddam's pregnant mother when she went to Baghdad to give birth to an older brother of Saddam.

In 1941, when anti-Jewish riots erupted in Iraq, she and her family hid under their beds until villagers, including Saddam's relatives, came to them to promise them protection.

While fiercely hostile to Zionism, Saddam treats Iraq's tiny 150-member Jewish community benevolently, said Mordchai Ben-Porat, an Iraqi-born former cabinet minister who sat next to Vicky and Naima while they talked.

He said Saddam's attitude to Jews was shaped in part by the kindness of Tikrit's Jews to his mother. "It didn't totally influence him," Ben-Porat said. "But it definitely had an influence."

Saddam has said the Israeli-Palestinian dispute should be negotiated along with his withdrawal from Kuwait.

Monday, Iraqi U.N. delegate Adnan Malik told the General Assembly that the Palestinian people must have a homeland in the West Bank and Gaza, with Jerusalem as its capital, before any other Mideast peace questions can be dealt with.

Saddam warned before Aug. 2 that he would attack Israel with chemical weapons if the Jewish state attacked any Arab state. Subsequently he said that he would carry out the threat if Iraq was attacked by the multinational forces deployed in the Gulf.

Arab-American says he will not give in to Kahane clan threats

NEW YORK (AP) — Arab-American leader M.T. Mehdi said Tuesday he would not be silenced by a warning that he is on an extremist "hit list" aimed at avenging the murder of Rabbi Meir Kahane.

New York Newsday reported that a note was mailed to a New York television reporter by members of Kahane's anti-Arab Kach Party, threatening 10 supporters of Palestinian rights.

The note, bearing a New York postmark contained the thinly veiled warning that "things will go boom in the night," Newsday said.

"Time is on our side. We will make sure Rabbi Kahane's death was not in vain," the note said.

Mehdi and attorney Rita Hauser, U.S. chair of the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East, are among 10 people on the hit list. They said Tuesday that police warned them about it two weeks ago.

"I'm really concerned about it. I don't have anything to say," said Hauser, adding that she was distressed that the list had been publicised.

Mehdi, secretary general of the National Council of Islamic Affairs and president of the American-Arab Relations Committee, said he had private protection "for some time." He said that in 1974, opponents burned his office and broke his back.

Mehdi conceded that he "might be a little bit" worried about the hit list. But "I shall not succumb to any threat."

"My thoughts are moral, peaceful, constitutional, in the interest of the Arabs, in the interest of the Jews, in the interest of the American people," he said. "Of course some Muslim countries today are SOBs. Our criticism of these Muslim coun-

tries... doesn't reflect on the spirit of the universalist Islam, the religion of peace."

Newsday said the list also included Louis Farrakhan, head of the Nation of Islam; Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, a Dartmouth college professor; University of Chicago history Professor Rashid Khalidi; New York Times columnist Anthony Lewis; Clovis Makooud, former U.N. ambassador from the Arab League; Columbia University Professor Edward Said, and two others whose identities could not be confirmed.

Hertzberg in a statement said he will continue to teach and express his views, with extra protection from police and campus security.

Farrakhan, Khalidi, Lewis and Makooud had no comment.

Said could not be located for comment, said Columbia University spokesman Fred Knobel.

Kahane was shot Nov. 5 while attending a Zionist meeting in a midtown hotel. Police have charged city employee Al Sayid Nosair with the killing. They say he apparently acted alone, because there is no solid evidence linking him to anti-Israel organisations.

Police found another list, this one with the names of six well-known Jews — including a congressman, two federal judges and an assistant U.S. attorney — at Nosair's home in Cliffside Park, New Jersey. That led some within New York's Jewish community to believe Kahane's killing was part of a conspiracy.

Nosair was charged in a new indictment with the attempted murder of a federal police officer, the Manhattan district attorney announced Tuesday.

The new charge refers to Nosair's alleged shooting of Carlos Acosta, a uniformed officer of

the U.S. postal service's protective service, during an exchange of gunfire on Lexington Avenue near 48th street.

Nosair was fleeing the Marriott East side hotel after allegedly shooting Kahane in the neck when he encountered Acosta, the superseding indictment said. Nosair allegedly shot Acosta in the upper right arm and the officer fired a bullet into the front of Nosair's neck. Both men have recovered.

The attempted first-degree murder charge has a minimum sentence of 15 years to life and a maximum sentence of 25 years to life upon conviction.

The superseding indictment includes the charges from the original indictment. Those charges are:

— Second-degree attempted murder relating to Acosta.

— Second-degree assault relating to 73-year-old Irving Franklin, allegedly shot in the right leg when he tried to stop the fleeing Nosair.

— First-degree coercion because of Nosair's alleged gunpoint attempt to commander of Franklin Garcia's taxicab.

— Also second- and third-degree criminal possession of a weapon and reckless endangerment.

Nosair was to be arraigned Wednesday on the new indictment in a New York supreme court.

There are several Arab-American organisations and the prominent of them are the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee (AADC) and the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA).

Jerusalem Post sacks 30 journalists

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's strike-hit Jerusalem Post newspaper has sacked 30 journalists in a bid to end union representation.

It was the second time this year that Post president and publisher Yehuda Levy had approved group dismissals amid labour unrest. In January he sacked 30 senior staffers who accused him of violating a pledge not to interfere in editorial operations.

"We sent out 30 dismissal letters to all journalists except those who signed personal contracts. These dismissals are in addition to 27 agreed on recently," Levy told Reuters.

"It can't be that a man invests more than \$20 million ... and a workers' committee or trade union comes along and decides it wants to manage things," he told Israel Radio.

The move is certain to harm operations at the well-known English-language daily, which was bought in 1989 by Conrad Black's Hollinger company which also owns Britain's Daily Telegraph.

Canada-based Hollinger paid \$17.5 million for the Post, for higher than its estimated value, and has invested in new technology for the loss-making post and launched weekly French-language edition.

At least 87 Post staffers have been dismissed this year, leaving only 15 journalists, a handful of people worked to put together the Post's Tuesday edition, which had only one bylined story on the front page and was filled with news agency copy.

A front page notice apologised for the issue's "shortcomings" as a result of the walkout.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Program review
15:45 Children programme
16:10 Book of Adventure
16:30 News summary
16:35 Local programme
16:50 Program review
17:00 News in Arabic
17:10 Local series
17:20 Program review
17:30 Local programme
17:40 Arabic film
17:50 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Cartoons
18:35 Documentaries
19:00 News in French
19:15 Reportage d'Actualites
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Bill Cosby Show
21:10 Black Forest
21:30 News in English
22:20 Movie of the Week: "The Godfather"

PRAYER TIMES

04:55 Fajr
10:17 Sunrise
11:27 Dhuhr
14:13 Asr
16:30 Maghreb
17:50 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth St. 610740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637385

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrazas Church Tel. 622346

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625401

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 625383

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Austrian International Church Tel. 627091, 685329

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 649522

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain while winds will be westerly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Amman Min./max. temp. 11/17

Aqaba 14/24

Deserts 7/19

Jordan Valley 12/22

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Aqaba 25. Humidity readings: Amman 62 per cent, Aqaba 42 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ali Al Maari 675485
Dr. Bahjat Badi 940952
Dr. Issa Haddad 897077
Dr. Khaled Halaq 707522
Firas pharmacy 661912
Al Asena pharmacy 637025
Nasrullah pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsan pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Ali Al Shughat 636381

Al Shughat pharmacy 692234

ZARQA:

Dr. Mustafa Taha 636381

Khalifeh pharmacy 95341

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 630241

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637722

Fire Brigade 897128

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896300

Public Security Department 630221

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Abdel Telephone Repair 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 660100

Jordan Electricity Authority 816151

Electric Power 636381

Rij Flight Information 08-53230

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hassani Medical Centre 813813/2

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642417

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Madras, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shamsan 661714

Shamsan Hospital 669131

University Hospital 843845

Al-Mustafa Hospital 667279

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Mubayyir 771013/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 751112/2

Army, Marka 816111/5

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983332

Zarqa National Hospital 09991071

Ibn Sina Hospital 09946732

IRBID:

Princess Basmah Hospital 02127555

Greek Catholic Hospital 02127275

Ibn Al-Nadef Hospital 021247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital 031314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Iraqi ambassador to U.S. says most Americans support dialogue

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following President Bush's acceptance of Iraq's call for a dialogue over the Gulf issue, there has been a sharp increase in public support in the United States for a peaceful settlement of the crisis, according to the ambassador to the United States, Ambassador to the United States, Ambassador to the United States.

"Once the American people realise the facts about the Gulf region they will no doubt realise that war serves the interests of no one, and they will stand against it," Mashat said.

He said that Iraq had been calling for peaceful negotiations to avoid war and catastrophe for all those in the region, and Iraq wanted a comprehensive and just solution for all the problems including the Israeli occupation of Palestine, Lebanon and Golan Heights alongside the Gulf problem.

Asked about President Bush's meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, he said that he

knew of no fixed date, but it could take place next week.

"But Zionist circles in the United States have expressed their apprehension of a solution for the Gulf crisis and are trying to foil Bush's initiative," he added.

"Iraq supports France's call for an international conference to find solutions for all the region's problems and considers President Francois Mitterrand's initiative at the United Nations as containing positive elements for peace," Mashat said.

He said that the Iraqi government had already asked for some clarifications from the French government and has offered to present Iraq's views to Paris.

Ministry of Supply issues rules controlling flour sale, consumption

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply Wednesday announced a set of regulations concerning the sale of flour to bakeries and the public, and said that restrictions were introduced to prevent smuggling of flour, a strategic commodity, out of Jordan.

"The government is forced to adopt these stringent measures to control the sale of flour after it has discovered that flour had been smuggled to neighboring Arab countries in large quantities over the past two months," the ministry's Secretary General Radi Ibrahim announced in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"We want to stem the smuggling of this strategic commodity, especially under the extraordinary circumstances Jordan is going through and at a time when bread in Jordan is sold at 75 fils a kilogramme, far less than any other country in the world," Ibrahim said.

acting under directions from the government, and in cooperation with the concerned security authorities, had adopted the following measures to be applied immediately to prevent the loss of this strategic commodity:

- The Ministry of Supply is committed to supply all mills with their needs of wheat to be ground into flour, bran and semolina, and the ministry will define the rates of selling these products.
- The ministry will take direct supervision of the mill's work to ensure that the flour, bran and semolina conform to specifications.
- The mills will supply flour and bran to stores and centres which the ministry assigns. These centres will sell the products to the bakeries and the merchants under a quota system, and the mills will therefore submit monthly reports about the quantities sold and the stores or centres to which they were sold.
- Bakeries can either obtain their needs of wheat flour from the mills or through a third party registered with the Ministry of Supply.
- Each bakery will be assigned certain quantities of flour in each city and governorate, and reports about sales will have to be submitted to the Income Tax Department and the Bakeries Union.
- Third parties providing the flour to the bakeries from the

mills will have to obtain a financial guarantee of JD 5,000 in order to undertake this kind of task, and should honour an agreement with the ministry about trading in flour.

— It will be forbidden to any citizen to trade or smuggle flour to another country or to attempt such action or to store huge amounts in an unjustifiable manner. Those caught committing this act will risk having the flour confiscated and would face legal prosecution.

— All civil and military service consumer corporations will be supplied with sufficient amounts of flour to be sold to the public and in case a village or a town has no such centre, the ministry will assign special centres to deal with the sales of flour.

— Merchants dealing with flour can sell each family a maximum of two sacks (normally 50 kilos each) on a monthly basis, provided they had obtained ration cards and family registration books.

— The merchants will have to present a report about the amounts sold to the Ministry of Supply.

"It is hoped that the adoption of this system would control consumption on the one hand, and prevent further smuggling of flour on the other," Ibrahim said.

He warned that the ministry would apply the full measure of the law against the violators.

He said that the ministry had noticed an increase in the sale of flour in August and September, but it was thought to be due to the presence of large numbers of expatriates returning from the Gulf countries, but when the increase in the sale of flour continued in October and November the ministry had to investigate the matter and found out that large quantities had been smuggled to other countries.

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Ortega in pursuit of Gulf peace

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said Wednesday that the key element in his search for a peaceful solution of the Gulf crisis was to take advantage of all the parties' calls for peace and to "take them up on it."

"The basic purpose of our initiative is to have a just and peaceful settlement within the framework of international law, the United Nations Charter, and all Security Council resolutions," Ortega said upon his departure to Germany to meet with former Chancellor Willy Brandt.

Ortega, head of the opposition Sandinista Liberation Front of Nicaragua, has been holding talks with world leaders of the Third World countries including Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and the president of Venezuela, Jaime Lusinchi.

The Nicaraguan delegation, which is continuing its peace initiative, has also held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and the Jordanian Monarch, King Hussein.

The delegation discussed with the King latest Gulf crisis and the outcome of the delegation's visits to many of the non-aligned countries.

According to diplomatic sources close to the Nicaraguan team, talks will also be conducted with former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, and Nelson Mandela, deputy president of South Africa's African National Council (ANC).

Ortega said that it was still early to disclose the contents of the peace initiative, that comes as part of the non-aligned Nicaragua contribution to peace in the area, but insisted that things would become clearer after the end of the round of talks in Germany. "We will convene afterwards in Germany or Oslo, and move things quickly, because our initiative will not be relevant if we wait too long," Ortega said.

He also added that he was very optimistic with the "proliferation of peace initiatives" referring to the French initiative and King Hussein's initiative.

"We welcome all the initiatives and we will keep in touch with all parties and coordinate all efforts with Jordan and France," Ortega said. "As other initiatives gain momentum and push their way forward, war will be pushed further away," he added.

Ortega also said that he would like to see the United Nations Security Council adopt a resolution calling for the "reassessment of the practice of embargo illegally placed against Jordan." "I would also like to see another resolution putting an end to the criminal and inhumane embargo on medicine applied against Iraq," Ortega said.

"I would like to extend my warmest farewell to the people of Jordan, in particular to His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, for the great honour they bestowed on me," Ortega said, in reference to the Al Kawakab Medal of the First Order presented to him Tuesday.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Haimat Muhammad Ali at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of British archaeological projects in Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics by Hazem Zu'bi; stone lamps by Hind Taher; Islamic calligraphy by Amer Malhas at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, Shmeisani.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "L'orient des cafes" at the French Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- Feature film entitled "Field of Dreams" at the American Centre — 6:30 p.m.
- Italian film entitled "Il gioiello del Nilo" at Haya Arts Centre — 7:30 p.m.

AQABA CULTURAL WEEK

- Exhibition entitled "Goethe-Forst" at Aqaba Visitors' Centre (opens 3:30 p.m.)
- Exhibition entitled "Ala — an Islamic City on the China Sea" at Aqaba Visitors' Centre (opens 3:30 p.m.)
- Arabic poetry recital by Jordanian poet Salehman Owdes at the auditorium, near the Visitors' Centre — 4:00 p.m.
- Musical performance by the Aqaba Municipality group at the auditorium — 5:00 p.m.

House's Financial Committee says 1991 budget 'reasonable'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Financial Committee of the Lower House of Parliament is currently studying the 1991 fiscal budget as presented to Parliament last week by Finance Minister Basel Jarad, but its members can only feel guarded optimism about the government's predictions of future financial aid to the Kingdom, the committee's rapporteur Abdullah Ensour said on Jordan Television.

"One can not deny that the events of 1989 and 1990 left their adverse impact on the national economy, which made the preparation of the fiscal budget for 1991 a very difficult task," Ensour said.

"The committee members believe that the government has succeeded in presenting a reasonable budget to Parliament taking into consideration a full view of what could happen in the region in 1991," Ensour added.

He said the government predicted that calm and stability would be restored gradually during the coming year and it predicted that the economic embargo on Jordan would end, Jordan's exports would resume and Jordanian expatriates' money transfers and remittances would flow into the country again.

He also said that the Ministry of Finance had predicted that huge financial aid would be coming to Jordan in the 1991, "but our first impression is that this will not materialise though we generally are optimistic."

"I personally believe the finance minister has succeeded in presenting a near reasonable budget for 1991 given the aforesaid circumstances," Ensour said.

He said that "thanks to rational attitudes during the past events Jordan is now enjoying a relatively stable economy and the Jordanian people are living an almost normal economic life despite the hardships the country is facing."

He pointed out that the 1991 budget showed a decline of eight per cent in the domestic national product; "this is a very big drop, but it all depends on the Jordanian people's readiness to offer further sacrifices to boost the national economy."

Ensour said that the committee would have a complete picture of the budget in the coming days and would submit a full report to the Parliament which would study the committee's recommendations before endorsing the budget.

German film festival to celebrate famous director

By Maha Addasi

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Celebrating leading film director Fritz Lang's centenary, the Goethe Institute Sunday, started a film festival opened by the movie "Das Kabinett des Dr. Caligari."

The films selected are from the golden age of German cinema, and all but one of the seven movies to be shown throughout the festival have been directed by Lang.

Sami Kamal, film and literary critic at the French section of the Jordan Times, and the person who selected the films to be shown at the festival, said that the movies to be shown were a series of films "belonging to a unique time for the film industry which were well worth seeing."

"Where in Jordan do you get the opportunity to see silent movies?" Kamal asked adding that the movies selected for the festival are in black and white and cover the silent period of film but also include Lang's first two sound films.

"Das Kabinett des Dr. Caligari," shown last Sunday, was the only selected movie not directed by Lang, but it had the purpose of setting the pace and showing the atmosphere of the movies of the time.

"There is a screen relationship between the characters in the first movie and the other movies to be shown," Kamal said. "Dr. Caligari, for instance, has a screen relationship with Dr. Mabuse (the protagonist in the second movie to be shown on Dec. 8) in that they are both villains."

The villain is always present in Lang's films and according to Kamal all Lang's works have common themes.

"Lang was concerned with three main themes: death, destiny, and power, and what naturally followed these themes, like vengeance and justice," Kamal explained.

Dr. Mabuse, to be screened Dec. 8, is a statement of the times

it reflects with the chaos and the economic situation in Germany of the early 1900's.

The picture is a story of a criminal mastermind who resorts to hypnotism and blackmail in an attempt to control the world. When he dies, the horror is not over because his assistant takes over.

"Das Testament des Dr. Mabuse" will be shown on Dec. 9, it is a continuation of "Dr. Mabuse" and also the last movie that Lang made in Germany.

The German minister of propaganda at the time saw this film and told Lang that he would not be able to let the German public see it. In return, he offered to make Lang the head of film production in Germany. Lang feeling that he was no longer free to express himself left the country.

Also to be shown is the movie "Die Nibelungen" which is composed of two parts. Part one will be shown on Dec. 15, and part two on Dec. 16. This movie is inspired by a 13th century poem called "Das Nibelungenlied."

Part one is about a young man Siegfried who marries Kriemhild but is treacherously murdered by Queen Brunhilde. Part two is about Siegfried's widow who marries Attila the Hun and avenges herself on Queen Brunhilde.

Another movie that will be shown on Dec. 22 is the first of Lang's sound movies: "Video Rache fur Jesse James" the movie is a western, and hints at the fact that Lang went to America. The story is about Frank of the James gang who goes on a vengeance trail to avenge his outlawed brother, Jesse.

The second sound movie "M" which will be shown on Dec. 29, is considered Lang's greatest work, a masterpiece.

The story is a crime satire about a child murderer who manages to dodge the police but who is trapped by the underworld who put him on trial for giving them a bad name.

All movies will be shown at 8 p.m. and entry is free.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Greater Amman Municipality Wednesday opened an exhibition of designs by local firms to improve the central parts of the capital. The designs had been submitted by engineering firms to Amman Municipality in the course of an Urban Design Competition for Museum Plaza last month.

Amman Mayor Ali Suheimat opened the exhibition which also displays six projects prepared by 48 students from the University of Jordan's engineering faculty.

The project aims at allowing the national museum project (in the second phase) to become a distinguished cultural monument.

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Urban design exhibition opens

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Queen inaugurates ceramics, Islamic calligraphy exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Wednesday opened a three-day exhibition of newly designed Jordanian handicrafts at the Design and Trade Centre.

The exhibition includes ceramics by Hazem Zu'bi and Rula Atalla, Islamic calligraphy by Amer Malhas, and stone lamp bases by Hind Taher.

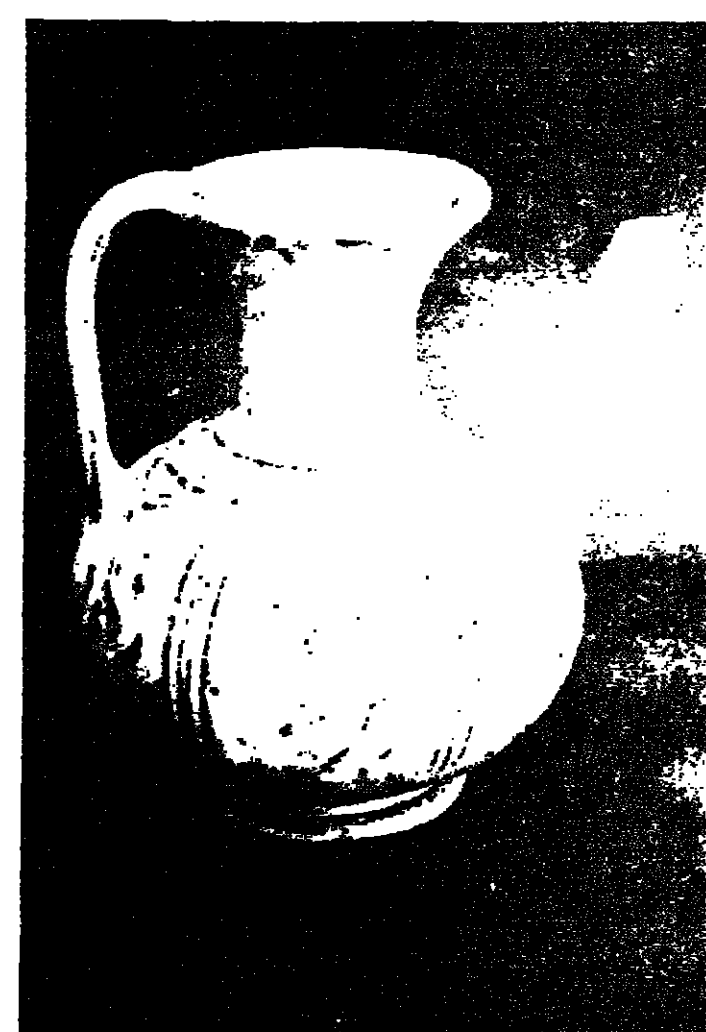
Hazem Zu'bi and Rula Atalla are partners in their ceramics company, Salsal Ceramics. The Jordan Design and Trade Centre has encouraged them to target their work more toward the local market than tourists, a move which has more than doubled their monthly sales. The centre has provided them with financing for kiln repairs and raw materials, financial consulting to analyse their profitability and price their products more accurately, antique carpets for designs, and some guidance in product development. Much of their work is inspired by museum pieces and weaving patterns.

Amer Malhas is a talented calligrapher and art teacher at the Amman Baccalaureate School. The centre's efforts have focused on promoting his products to some local retail outlets and a few export orders, such as one from the Liverpool Museum. The centre hopes that, as Amer's business becomes established, he will have more confidence in establishing a full-time business and begin training apprentices. His work on glass and parchment is all inspired by the tiles on the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

Hind Taher, who designs stone lamp bases decorated with inset carpet swatches, has sold her creations through a retail shop on Mecca Street. Finding her work highly creative, the centre has attempted to increase the exposure of her lamps and has provided her with designed swatches from Al Hashimiyya and Jerash to complement her existing line decorated with woven pieces in the Jabal Bani Hamida tradition.

The Jordan Design and Trade Centre falls under the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's National Handicraft Development Project which seeks to professionalise handicraft marketing activities by encouraging producers to respond to existing demand, to reduce reliance on informal networks and charity sales outlets, to initiate mainstream selling activities (wholesale, retail, export), and to establish acceptable standards of production.

Basic issues of production, such as dyeing, loom construction, and finishing, have also been addressed.



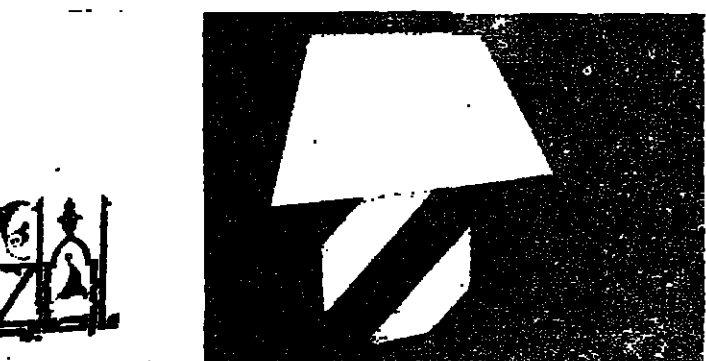
So far, the project has focused on textiles, weaving and embroidery, where the largest number of individuals are employed in Jordan's handicraft sector. Assistance has been provided to several voluntary organisations and private entrepreneurs, reaching over 800 beneficiaries in Amman, Irbid, Balqa and Ma'an governorates.

Results have been especially encouraging with two beneficiary organisations: Save the Children's Bani Hamida weaving project where between 1988 and 1989 the number of participants increased from 275 women to 648 women, and where total wages and annual sales over the two-year period have doubled; and the Jerash Ladies Benevolent Society's weaving and embroidery centre where, within eighteen months, employment rose from 18 part-time workers to 60 full-time workers, monthly sales consistently increased three to four times, the average wage increased threefold (from 20 to 60 dinars per month), large orders can be efficiently processed and delivered, and the potential for

the establishment of a specialised cutting and assembly centre has been established.

In addition, the project has provided design assistance to several NGOs (Save the Children's Jordan River Designs, the Al Hussein Society for the Physically Handicapped), community groups in Nuzha, Al Taj, and Wadi Abdoun, UNRWA, the Urban Development Department, and to private sector entrepreneurs.

The Salt Handicrafts Training Centre, a project which falls under the umbrella of the National Handicraft Development Project and is implemented jointly by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the Salt Development Corporation, and the Italian government, conduct comprehensive instruction in weaving and ceramics in order to upgrade the general quality of craftsmanship in Jordan. Six Jordanian instructors received intensive training both in Salt and in Rome. In addition, twenty-two students are currently enrolled in the three-year programme.



King congratulates Finland

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to Finnish President Mauno Koivisto to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on Finland's independence day anniversary.

Queen opens charitable bazaar

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Wednesday opened a charity bazaar, organised by various charitable organisations in Jordan and the occupied Arab territories, at the Orthodox Club in Amman.

The exhibition, which displays items by 34 societies for three days, has been organised in conjunction with the Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for the Support of the Intifada.

The exhibition displays embroideries, tricot, knitting, artificial flowers in addition to paintings by Jordanian artists and Christmas cards depicting the Bedouin life in Jordan.

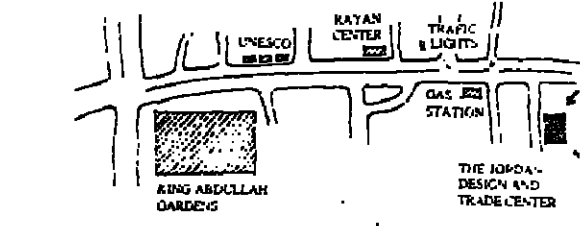
The proceeds of the exhibition will benefit the charitable organisations and their activities.

Heads of diplomatic missions attended the opening ceremony.

Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor
The Jordan Design and Trade Centre
presents an exhibition featuring

- Ceramics by Hazem Zu'bi and Rula Atallah
- Stone lamps by Hind Taher
- Islamic calligraphy by Amer Malhas

December 6, 7 and 8, 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM



Telephone 699142 for more information.
The Jordan Design and Trade Center is a project of the
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Hawks, watch out

THE kind of hawkish statements currently beaming out of President George Bush and his Defence Secretary Dick Cheney cast a dark cloud over the projected U.S.-Iraqi talks on the Gulf crisis. Coming as they do on the eve of such talks one wonders whether Washington seeks a fruitful dialogue or just showmanship as a prelude to war. How else can one interpret Cheney's bellicose comments which amount to a pronouncement that war might be preferable to peace under the present circumstances. When the defence secretary has the audacity to all but declare that it would be wiser to wage war against Iraq now than later, and this signal gets echoed by the White House, then clearly Bush and the more hawkish members of his team are sending the wrong signals on their declared objectives in the Gulf. This also means that the forthcoming talks between Washington and Baghdad are destined to be a farce and a front for executing a well orchestrated scenario for a major conflagration.

When confronted with mounting opposition to the military build-up in the Gulf by the American people and their representatives in the U.S. Congress, Secretary Cheney drew on the hackneyed arguments of the Vietnam war era and launched stinging attacks on the U.S. press and the Democratic Party for fanning the popular rejection of the war option. But Cheney should be the first to recognise that the voices uttered against the Vietnam war were right and this kind of warmongering was as wrong then as it is now. Would it not be infinitely more beneficial to the U.S. national interest to recultivate with Iraq the relations which once served the international community by stemming the Khomeini tide? Predictably Iraq has responded favourably to the call for dialogue with the U.S. and has continued to express its willingness to compromise. But if war is going to be imposed on Iraq and on the region as a whole irrespective of what Baghdad does to advance the cause of peace, then Cheney and his fellow jingoists would have to reckon not only with their sober countrymen but also with every decent and honourable peace-loving individual and country in the world. As one prominent senator from New York remarked recently, Bush seems determined to bury his second term as president in the sands of Saudi Arabia if war is going to be his preferred option. He will if Cheney and like-minded U.S. officials are allowed to get away with their plans and ideas.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The flurry of diplomatic activity in the Gulf for the sake of reaching a settlement to the Gulf crisis before the U.N. Security Council's Jan. 15 deadline is cause for optimism for everybody, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. Washington's sudden and total change of heart with regard to speaking to the Iraqis, hours after the Security Council had issued its deadline, came as a surprise to everyone and to all European political observers. But it should be noted that had it not been for Iraq's firm position and its insistence to achieve a settlement based on justice, President Bush would not have taken the initiative and offered to open a dialogue with the Iraqi leadership, the paper pointed out. In addition, diplomatic contacts by Jordan or through Jordan aimed at bringing about a peaceful settlement, a move which has been supported by many non-aligned nations and backed by the majority of Arab people, have paved the way for the new turn of events which serve as indications a positive outcome, the paper added. It said that Iraq wants a realistic dialogue which could lead to a settlement of all outstanding issues in the Middle East and not only the Gulf crisis, so that a lasting peace can be attained. But, it said, that participation on the part of the European Community countries in the coming dialogue and a contribution on the part of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states can by all means help the Iraqis and the Americans reach a lasting settlement. It is hoped that Bush and the Western alliance would realise after all that war can only cause loss and suffering for all sides, and that negotiations are urgently needed now to reach a settlement, the paper added. It said that nations of the World will not abandon hope and will remain optimistic about the outcome.

While the Bush initiative is gathering support from around the world which realises the danger of war in the Gulf, Israel stands out alone as the opposition party to dialogue and to peace, said Al Dastour Arabic daily Wednesday. Israeli leaders have over the past few days expressed their displeasure and unhappiness about Bush's call for dialogue with the Iraqi leadership; and its media and information services have been busy with campaigns aimed at instigating the West to launch war on Iraq, the paper noted. Whoever listens to such campaigns and Israeli leaders statements these days, can easily realise the fact that Israel does not want peace because the Jewish state was built on war and aggression and its infrastructure was based on usurpation and the seizure of other countries territory, the paper pointed out. A country like Israel with warmongers at its helm can only survive in an atmosphere of wars and aggression, as peace will be harmful to its future, the paper added. The paper said that this Israeli position which conflicts with the world community's stance should open the eyes of those Arabs who chose to side with the foreign forces deployed in the Gulf especially now that the Israelis are saying that they are willing to take part in an aggression on Iraq once such aggression starts. Israel's opposition to the idea of dialogue between Washington and Baghdad, said the paper, does not only display the Jewish state's historic enmity towards the Arabs, but it also points to the fact that the Zionists feel that Iraq is a source of threat to the Jewish state which is bent on expanding at the expense of the Arab nation.

The fallacies in Bush's policy of containment

By Nasser Aruri and
John J. Carroll

THE CRISIS in the Gulf is the first important indication of how the United States will respond to the much touted "new world order." The military buildup is an ominous sign that the U.S. sees its international role as unchanged after the Cold War. It continues to invest extraordinary resources in its military power, and the Gulf response is yet another demonstration of a foreign policy oriented to the use of that power. This remains so even while America's relative economic status continues to decline and a domestic debate rages over whether the U.S. should divert substantial resources from the military to rebuilding an economy plagued with massive debt, bank failures and a crumbling infrastructure.

What President Bush believes to be at stake in the Gulf is American hegemony within its sphere of influence, the preservation of which has been a primary goal of U.S. foreign policy since World War II. The official name of that policy is containment. Whose strategic doctrine, underlying the course of the entire Cold War, was based on the assumption that there exists a legitimate world order for whose maintenance the U.S. is responsible. American policy makers have consistently asserted their willingness to commit force in support of containment and American history during the latter half of this century is marked by a series of overseas adventures, of which Korea and Vietnam were the most costly.

Rationale and rhetoric

In the "new world order" containment has lost its original rationale as a response to the Soviet challenge. Regional interventions can no longer be explained as responses to Soviet aggression. The Soviet alliance is in tatters: powerful internal forces threaten to tear the USSR apart. In such a context, the idea of containment as a tool for maintaining the geopolitical balance in a world contested by two military super powers has lost its force. There is no one to contain. But in reality, the old Communist rhetoric of the old containment policy masked the identity of what was most commonly the real enemy of the status quo: Third World nationalism.

This can be seen in the Gulf where, following the invasion and annexation of Kuwait by Iraq, the focus of U.S. policy has not been on the presumed Communist

threat. This has been containment pursued in a theoretical vacuum, and President Bush has strained to credibly rationalise the U.S. intervention. At various points, he has summoned up the old rhetoric calling for a defence of the "American way of life," but without the old anti-Communist theme it has not played well at home. He has found it hard to defend an intervention on behalf of cheap fuel when the price at the pump has risen by 50 per cent and the potential cost in lives is so high. While his appeal to rid the world of noxious dictators has played better on the Congressional power in what was once a regional conflict, and the geopolitical stakes are much lower than the U.S. would have been able to credibly claim if the Cold War was still at its height.

The status quo in the Gulf, which preceding presidents pledged to uphold under the containment doctrine, has provided the United States with an exceedingly favourable economic climate. Here, much more than in Vietnam and Central America, the economic stakes are very high. This is by far the largest arms importing region in the world, with the highest military expenditure on a per capita basis. Seven of the ten largest arms importers during the past decade were Middle East countries for which the West, particularly the United States, was the largest supplier. The area has the largest concentration of oil and natural gas reserves in the world. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran and the UAE each contain greater oil reserves and those found in the U.S. Saudi Arabia six times as much. Not only is Middle East oil plentiful, it is cheap: the cost of producing a barrel of oil in the Gulf has been estimated at \$2, compared to between \$15 and \$18 in Alaska.

In defence of these interests, the U.S. has consistently applied the containment doctrine to the Middle East. The states enemy of this policy was the Soviet Union and Communism but the unstated enemy of the 1950s and '60s was Arab nationalism, which vowed to unify the Arab World and nationalise its wealth and resources. The methods of containment included military alliances enabling direct U.S. intervention and informal arrangements with individual nations capable of acting as American proxies.

The Nixon period in the '70s emphasised the role of local

surrogates as the first defence of the status quo. But with the overthrow of the shah, the Carter presidency began a new era of containment with its policy of "rapid deployment." This new strategy was devised by Carter's National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, who believed that it was folly to place excessive reliance on the volatile politics of Third World regimes. President Carter implemented the Rapid Deployment Force, supposed to project U.S. military power to the Gulf from bases as far away as North Carolina. Carter announced in 1980 that the U.S. would use that force to "protect the area from external aggressors." President Reagan clarified this implication in 1981. When he declared that "Saudi Arabia will never be allowed to become another Iran." This statement underlined the American role as defender of the status quo against whatever opposition forces might emerge, be they internal dissidents or external aggressors, Communist sympathisers or not.

Saddam's image changed

Saddam Hussein was unlikely candidate to incur the wrath of the United States. His career was built on dealing ruthlessly with Iraqi Communists and Kurdish rebels, and his reputation was never that of a proponent of Arab unity, socialism or nationalism. Nor has he been an Arab nationalist or a champion of the Palestinian cause. He was favoured by the U.S. with \$1 billion of agricultural credits in 1983 to free resources for his continued war against Iran. Washington encouraged the French to sell him missiles and the Saudis to finance him. He was provided with military intelligence from U.S. satellite systems. Earlier this year, the Bush administration vetoed legislation that would have punished him for using agricultural credits to buy arms.

There has been a sudden transformation of Saddam's image in the U.S. from a "shield against Iranian extremism" to "most dangerous man in the world." This has resulted from his challenge to the established order in the Gulf. He has challenged the legitimacy of the local dynastic regimes which have anchored their stability in American protection and through which American corporate interests are in turn protected. Hence, the ter-

ritorial integrity of Kuwait and the restoration of its dynasty have been elevated to the status of vital U.S. interests, worthy of the most massive deployments since the Vietnam war.

What has mobilisation achieved?

It is hard to escape the conclusion that President Bush has seriously miscalculated. The geopolitical gains which he hopes to achieve seem disproportionate to the cost. A dynastic regime friendly to the U.S. has been swallowed by regional power with which the U.S. has previously been allied. The invasion and annexation to which Bush has responded does little by itself to change the orientation of the players in the Gulf. Even so, the U.S. is committed to deploying 340,000 or more troops, who stand to sustain the brunt of the fighting should the stalemate break down. The cost to the United States has been enormous, and the loss of life should war break out is likely to be very heavy.

Outrage against Iraqi violations of international law has been adequately and effectively expressed through the collective action of the United Nations, and the U.S. mobilisation has added nothing on that score. The U.S. build-up has long since passed the point necessary for support or leadership of the international embargo. Furthermore, despite the wretched human rights record of the Iraqi government, the U.S. has not previously seen no need for alarm. A defence of international standards of civilised behaviour is certainly not the point of principle on which the president stands.

Continued access to cheap oil has not been achieved by the American mobilisation either. Quite the reverse has resulted. The price of oil on international markets is driven higher by the threat of war and the uncertainties of the continued crisis, as well as by the loss of both Kuwaiti and Iraqi production. Even with the annexation, Iraq would at some point have sought a market for Kuwaiti oil and it is difficult to imagine that the world market would have been destabilised for long.

Nor has Bush reaped dividends at home, where he is facing a rapidly deteriorating political situation. He inherited one of the longest periods of economic growth in the nation's history, low inflation and high employment. The illusion of the Reagan years was that America could



spend freely and would not have to pay. Tax rates could be lowered but tax revenues would magically increase; America's prestige and power could be enhanced through an extraordinary military build-up, at no real cost to the economy. The legacy of the Reagan years is beginning to catch up with Mr. Bush, for the prosperity was built on cheap fuel and massive public debt.

The fallacies of containment

Bush is impelled by the same imperatives as his predecessors and yet the fallacies of containment are now more apparent than ever. First, crisis intervention through military power is an inadequate and dangerous substitute for policies which anticipate problems. American reliance on Middle Eastern oil stems from a failure to plan alternative energy strategies. Second, American interests are not served by transforming regional conflicts into global crises. Collective action through the U.N. regional bodies can effectively sanction deviant behaviour without massive force. Collective strategies spread the cost and the responsibility more fairly among the nations which seek to benefit, and the burden does not fall disproportionately on the U.S.

Third, the United States can no longer afford to finance the military. The containment doctrine requires. The "new world order" is predicated on a multipolar, highly competitive

economic environment within which America's enormous military establishment may prove a liability. The dollars which support military research, standing forces and the purchase of armaments are dollars which are not invested in infrastructure, debt retirement and industrial development. There is a widely held belief that the United States is not preparing itself adequately for competition with the new Europe and the rapidly developing Pacific rim. Furthermore, a new fiscal austerity is sweeping government at every level in which new revenue sources are politically and economically difficult to find. This is making it difficult for the government to meet its outstanding domestic obligations, let alone pay for adventures abroad.

Despite these considerations, President Bush firmly dug in. He seems not to have thought out the consequences of his deployment, and is determined to tough it out. Bush has placed himself in an unenviable dilemma. He has forgotten the Reagan principle that troops should only be committed when they will not sustain heavy losses; and he has forgotten the lesson of the Carter years, that the public quickly grows impatient with stalemate.

Dr. Aruri and Dr. Carroll are professors of political science at Southeastern Massachusetts University. Their article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

Lebanon tore itself into small pieces that have to be reassembled

By Peter Smerdon

Reuter

BEIRUT — Lebanon turned its teeth on itself with a vengeance in 1990 until finally Beirut — too weak to fight on — set aside the militia guns and reunited under state control.

Only Time will tell if peace is here to stay after Christians slaughtered Christians and Shi'ite Muslim killed their brothers for much of the last 12 months.

After 15 years of battles, even the few optimists left are sceptical whether a lasting end to the civil war is at hand.

"It was a good year for war and ended as a good year for peace," said a Western diplomat when Lebanese troops put the reunited capital under the authority of President Elias Hrawi at the start of December.

"Lebanon tore itself into smaller pieces over plan in 1990 than ever before. Syria then intervened and the plan is moving ahead in stages. But few can predict if it will last."

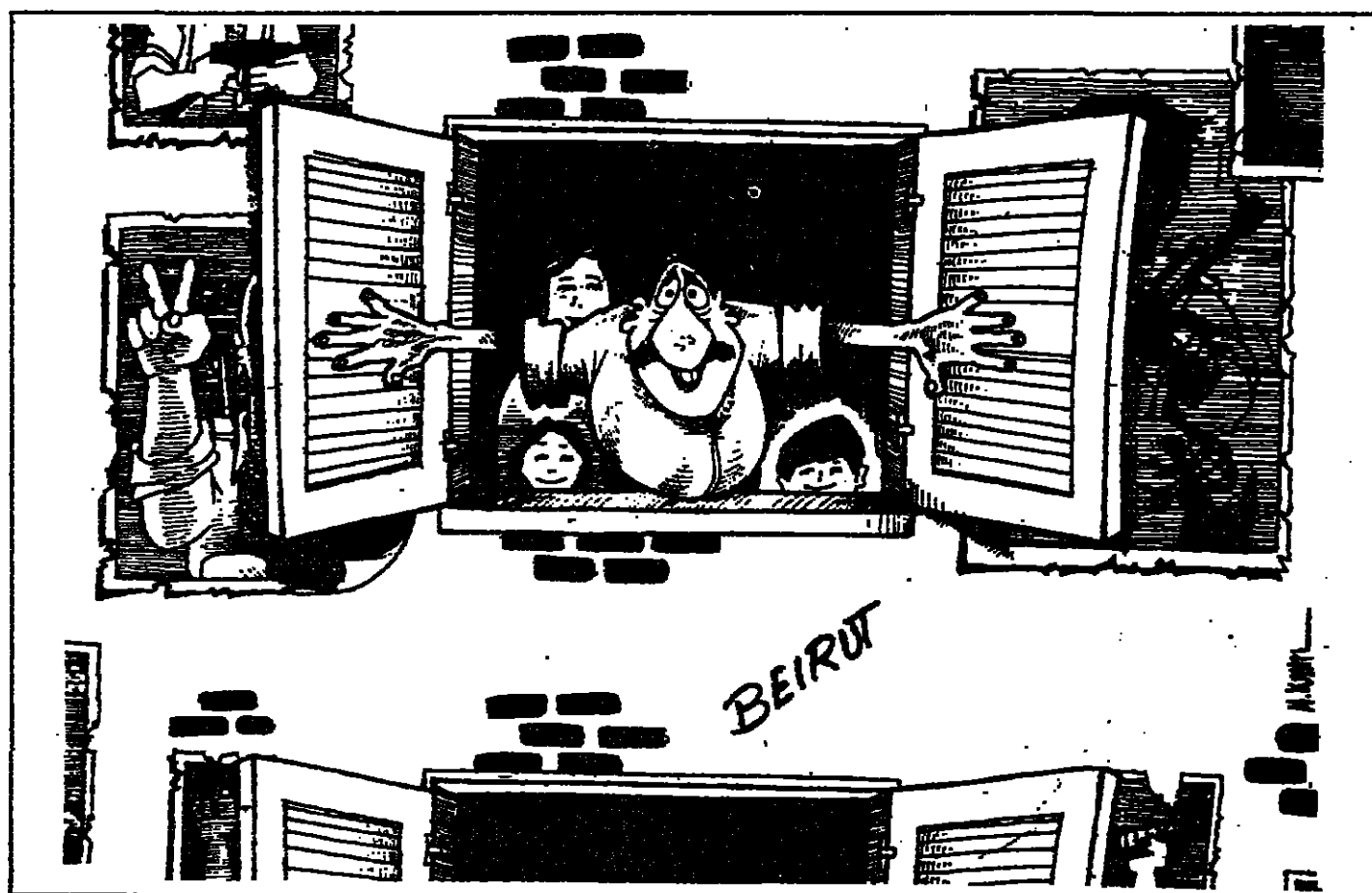
"If we don't know whether we will have war in the Gulf in January, saying the war is finished here seems irresponsible," the diplomat said.

Syrian bombers thundering over Beirut from the Mediterranean heralded the change in seasons from war to peace on Oct. 13 by bombing the presidential palace in East Beirut.

Declaring from his concrete and steel lined palace bunker he could fight armies but not planes, rebel Christian General Michel Aoun ended a year of defiance. He told his troops to surrender and took refuge in the French embassy.

Thousands of Syrian and Lebanese troops seized the third of Lebanon's Christian enclave still held by Aoun.

The principle of "no victor,



no vanquished" which fuelled the war and its changing alliances for 15 years had been broken. Syria and Hrawi were clearly the winners, Aoun was the loser.

Officials and diplomats said the assault showed that the pact drawn up by Lebanese legislators in Taif, Saudi Arabia, last year was a durable and comprehensive foundation for peace.

The Taif pact attacked a root cause of the war when Hrawi signed into law on Sept. 21 the first amendments to Lebanon's constitution since independence from France in 1943.

The reforms gave Lebanon's

Muslim majority more of a say in the Christian-dominated political system and equal power in parliament. The Sunni Muslim-led cabinet was strengthened but the president remains a Christian Maronite.

By sending planes and men in at the request of Hrawi, Syria proved it would spare little for peace under the Taif Accord and none of the rival sides left was willing to oppose it openly.

The absence of international opposition to the Syrian move, even from Israel which has long controlled Lebanese airspace, showed that greater Western interest in the Gulf crisis had given Damascus a

free hand to fight for a final peace in Lebanon.

The nine hours of fighting for East Beirut killed some 700 people and brought down the last blows on a part of the city which until 1990 had escaped the worst of the war.

Aoun's leadership was responsible for the changed situation in East Beirut. Thousands of Christians emigrated because earlier battles he lost ruined the area and business was paralysed by periods of fighting and blockades.

Aoun launched a campaign to crush the Christian Lebanese (LF) militia on Jan. 31 which cost about 1,200 kil-

led and 3,250 wounded. The general was forced to agree to peace in May.

But his crusade had already prompted LF Chief Samir Geagea to agree to the Taif Pact despite some reservations.

Aoun's overthrow and the revival of the Taif pact also put pressure on Lebanese Shi'ite militias to end three years of fighting for domination of the Shi'ite community of 1.3 million.

The Pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) and Syrian-backed Amal militia signed a peace pact in Damascus on Nov. 5 after some 1,250 people perished in their conflict, in-

cluding 300 in 1990.

Under the Taif plan Lebanese troops were to extend their authority over all Lebanon, including the "security zone" in South Lebanon held by about 1,000 Israeli troops and a 3,000-strong allied Lebanese militia since 1985.

Israel and General Antoine Lahd, head of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon army, have vowed never to surrender the zone.

The Taif plan says all militias should be disbanded by March 1991, after a new government is formed including their leaders, and Syrian troops should move to Eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley before talks on their possible withdrawal.

For Western hostages held in Lebanon, 1990 brought freedom for two Americans, two Swiss and an Irish man but 12 remained in captivity. Most are believed held by pro-Iranian militias.

Hopes for freedom ran high after Hizbollah leaders said kidnapping was finished as a strategy and the Gulf crisis spurred realignment between the West and powers in the region.

Britain and Iran restored diplomatic relations on Sept. 27. President George Bush held talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Geneva on Nov. 23 and London and Syria resumed diplomatic links after a six-year break on Nov. 23. U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker arrived in Lebanon on Nov. 23, 14 months after the U.S. embassy closed, with the release of American hostages as his top priority.

"Iran and Syria now insist they want all the hostages out but we are still waiting and now hear some of the kidnappers want to be paid before any releases," said a diplomatic source.

"But things are looking better than ever before," he added.

Jordan Times WEEKENDER

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The airport beat — in search of a story

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "Why don't you vultures bugger off and leave us alone," shouted the man, hastily pushing his large suitcase to hide the name-tag pasted on it. "I told you I don't want to talk to you, I don't want to see your faces," he adopts a threatening note.

The reporters hastily beat a retreat since the well-built middle-aged man with a pronounced Irish accent looked as if he meant what he said.

Well, it is one of those typical scenes enacted quite a few times at Amman International Airport in the past few weeks whenever the daily Iraqi Airways flight from Baghdad lands, carrying aboard, more often than not, foreign nationals released by Iraq after being held as detainees against attack by the multinational force in the Gulf.

Thrown into the bargain are people like the gentleman with the Irish accent, who, despite his paranoid efforts to ward off the television cameras, tape recorders and poised pens of the press, failed to hide his identity as the head of a prosperous management and consultancy firm from Liverpool. It remained a secret, though, what exactly he was doing in Baghdad.

"Well, we lose some, we gain some," was the worldwide response of an elderly Western journalist to the verbal assault from the gentleman. "After all, aren't we all exactly what he called us — vultures?"

The "vultures" were disappointed heavily Saturday when there was unusually high number of them at the airport awaiting boxing legend Muhammad Ali, who was scheduled to fly out with at least 14 Americans released by Iraq.

The Iraqi Airways plane landed, people started coming out. Cameras and tape recorders went on alert and the vigil reached its peak, only to tumble down when it was first whispered and then formally announced that Ali was not aboard the plane. There was a scramble to the nearest phone and the replies many journalists got from their bases in Amman amounted to: Ali was meeting Iraqi President Saddam Hussein with a hope that he could fly out with more Americans and there was no indication when he will actually board a plane for Amman. And that was the end of what had promised to be a hectic day for the dozens of journalists at the airport.

On Sunday, it was a different story since it was confirmed before hand that Ali was aboard the flight.

As passengers started trickling out, journalists were also able to corner two Canadians who were permitted to leave Iraq after intervention by a Canadian parliamentary team.

The interviews went well, but it was bedlam as Ali himself walked out of the arrivals gate. Repeated requests by American embassy officials were ignored and everybody wanted to take a shot at Ali, whose speech is handicapped by Parkinson's disease. Forgotten and brushed aside in the bargain was a member of Ali's delegation who repeatedly said he had an "important statement" to make.

The spokesman was indeed heard, but not before it appeared that there was no way the cameras could reach Ali anymore.

Then there was a scramble to locate 24 Belgians and eight Britons, who, initial reports said, had boarded the flight in Baghdad. No-one could find them.

"Why should they give us the slip?" wondered an American television cameraman.

As it turned out later, the Belgians had flown out of Baghdad on a chartered flight, but six Britons were indeed on the Amman flight. And no one knew what happened to the other two Britons, if indeed the earlier report was correct.

Well, the journalists decided to settle for the six.

A typical day these days of dozens of television crew, photographers, wire agency stringers and a sprinkling of newspaper reporters begins with a trip to the Queen Alia International Airport, 30 kilometres outside Amman, at noon. Although the schedule says the daily Iraqi Airways flight lands at 12:30 noon, the plane usually lands sometime



Journalists mob passengers arriving by Iraqi Airways at the Queen Alia International Airport terminal (Photo by Youssef Al Allan)

between 30 to 45 minutes late.

The journalists gather at the arrivals gate of terminal two of the airport, sipping coffee and loitering around the concourse exchanging notes until a representative of the Ministry of Information arrives to escort them inside.

The official collects the badges of the journalists, and herds the group to the arms of the waiting security men.

A headcount is taken to match the number of badges, and the elaborate security search begins. Bags are politely opened, some contents are asked to be explained, a body search is conducted and then the journalist is waved in.

Since there is no female security guard posted at the gate, women journalists undergo a discreet search of their bags and a hand-held body scanner by the male security man.

Fifteen to 25 minutes later (depending on the number of journalists on any given day) the group scrambles their way up the stairs to the arrivals hall.

"Anyone of you here for the first time?" asks the Ministry of Information official. "If there are, please be advised that no photographs of the airport buildings are permitted."

Soon, the group is assembled at outside the arrivals lobby on the first floor for a wait, which at times, could be as much as 30 to 45 minutes.

"Are you on a peace mission or a regular, ordinary citizen?" was the question put to a foreign-looking woman about to walk into the aisle, obviously to board a flight to Baghdad, last week. "Well, I am a regular ordinary citizen of French Television," came the reply. (It transpired later that the woman was a famous television newscaster in France, but there was no-one at the airport on that day who recognised her).

The green and white Iraqi Airways plane cruises in; everybody takes a vantage position with eyes scanning the far end of the corridor. Soon, disembarking passengers start drifting in.

"A guest, a journalist or just a visitor?" This is the stereotyped question put to everyone who remotely resembles a non-Arab streaming out of the arrival gate.

"No photographs please, no statements please," shouts a stout official-looking woman, obviously a local employee at a Western embassy. "Our embassy does not want any photos or statements."

"Your embassy may or may not want a lot of things, but, lady, we are here to take photos and get statements, and that we will," comes the retort from behind the lens of a

television camera poised to take in every moving thing in the aisle.

The woman from the embassy knows when she is beaten. She purses her lips and walks off with a disgusted expression, but fails to move anyone.

"Do you mind talking to us for a few minutes?" is the opening gambit to every group of passengers.

"It is not us you want... the Americans are behind us," answers someone from the group. "We are a peace mission, not released 'guests'."

"Then do you mind talking to us for a few minutes? What were you doing in Baghdad?" The crowds draw closer, the glaring television lights are switched, tape recorders are thrust under people's chins, cameramen push each other aside to get better angles, and the interview is under way.

In cases where reporters could not make it to the airport, then the duty to "get quotes" falls on their cameramen. Indeed, it takes a trapeze artist to secure a decent photograph while wielding a tape recorder thrust at the subject's face. Still, there are some who do it.

Peace delegates who do not have any "released guests" are quickly forgotten and interviews are terminated half-way when it appears that the people coming down the aisle could be former "guests" of Iraq.

"I don't want to talk," says one of them; no doubt a Western diplomat who is under strict orders from his government not to open his mouth to the press.

"At least tell us your name and nationality please," the press is persistent. "No comment please," the answer is quick.

As soon as it is confirmed that the targets of the press were on the flight and have landed, many rush to the phone to call in their bases for an "urgent" arrival flash, usually a three to six line story. "Colour" and "quotes" follow later.

Most of the time the journalists are lucky when it comes to actual "former guests of Iraq." They are usually accompanied by peace activists, former statesmen or politicians who could use every bit of media limelight they get. If they could not be "cornered" at the arrivals gate, then the journalists make a beeline to the baggage collection area, hoping that their targets are not transit passengers. Here leisurely interviews and one-to-one questions are put and, more often than not, answers are given. But that is also where people like the man from Liverpool could spell trouble.



Darwish: I wish the Earth was our mother so she'd be kind to us

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

Amman — For Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, the three year old intifada has created new hopes of dreams once broken. As a Palestinian, Darwish feels the intifada has brought closer to reality the dream of all Palestinians returning home after decades of living in the diaspora.

Born in the village of Al Barweh in Palestine in 1942, Darwish and his family were displaced in 1948 when Israeli soldiers obliterated his hometown. After living as a refugee in Lebanon for one year, the young Darwish returned to Palestine, to Galilee, as a refugee for the second time. Although he grew up in Palestine, the poet left for Beirut in 1971, where he again departed the city in 1982 to live in Paris where he remains until today.

He wrote: "The earth is closing on us, pushing us through the last passage, and we tear off our limbs to pass through. The earth is squeezing us. I wish we were its wheat so we could die and live again. I wish the earth was our mother so she'd be kind to us. I wish we were pictures on the rocks for our dreams to carry/as mirrors. We saw the faces of those to be killed by the last of us in the last defence of the soul. (We cried over their children's feast. We saw the faces of those who'll throw our children/out of the windows of this last space. Our star will hang up mirrors. Where should we go after the last frontiers? Where should the birds fly after the last sky?/Where should the plants sleep after the last breath of air? We will write our names with scarlet steam. (We will cut off the hand of the song to be finished by our flesh. We will die here, here in the last passage. Here and here our blood will plant its olive tree."

Darwish, considered as perhaps the most famous and popular Palestinian poet, describes the deep feelings and determination of Palestinians, particularly those who have been displaced, through his own poetic expression. He said last week that "the best poem on life during the intifada would be written by a poet from the inside (the occupied Arab territories)."

The intifada for many Palestinians has brought the dream of return closer to reality, as it did to Darwish. The intifada has also "destroyed the borders between the Palestinians inside (Israeli occupied territories) and those in the diaspora; it has united the people who are struggling for liberation."

Darwish, who was in Amman last week to recite his poetry to a full house audience as a contribution to the intifada, told a crowd at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation the day after his recital that the intifada in itself was a poem. He also described the uprising as a "popular movement expressing a build-up of the Palestinian struggle" for liberation from Israeli occupation.

The poet — who is also a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Executive Committee and author of the Palestinian declaration of independence — said "it is as if the intifada truly brought us back home victorious; it clearly opened the road for us."

The intifada, he added, also depicted the truth to the Western World about the Palestinian people and their struggle for self-determination and clearly identified it.

Darwish said Palestine was a maternal society and described the Palestinian mother as a "guard of our eternal fire because she conceives the fighters and the guards of the homeland. She is the symbol of the land, which is our mother. She is essential for our existence, our life and our victory."

He wrote: "Give birth to me again so I can drink the country's milk from you and remain a little boy in your arms, remain a little boy/forever. I have seen many things, mother, I have seen. Give birth to me again so you can hold me in your hands."

Darwish, though more of a poet than a politician, came under criticism from some of the audience at Shoman Foundation for not separating his poetry from his position as PLO official.

When a member of the audience asked him to stick to poetry alone and be free to write without being linked to the PLO, Darwish replied that he did not choose to be in the official position.

"I wish I never had an official political position. And I wish you would write up a petition to the Palestine National Council (PNC) to relieve me of this responsibility," Darwish said with good humour as he sat next to the Palestine ambassador in Amman.

But the poet insisted that he completely disengages himself from the official Palestinian position when he writes his poetry. He urged his readers to interpret his poetry in the manner they saw fit, but without looking at him as a political figure.

"I'm committed to the PLO, but in my poetry, I don't fall under any pressure or influence," Darwish said at the gathering.

He described Palestinian politicians as being more "nationalists than politicians," who were mostly involved in nationalistic political work.

"A Palestinian struggles within his field through his own form of expression and serves a purpose for his homeland," Darwish said. "I serve the Palestinian dream, the Palestinian people and the Palestinian soul; not a political figure in the meaning of the word."

Beirut and Paris inspired Darwish most in his poetry, he said. He expressed his hope and dream to write his final ballad in his favourite capital, Jerusalem.

"Give birth to me again... give birth to me again that I may know in which land I will die, in which land I will come to life again. (Greetings to you as you light the morning fire, greetings to you, greetings to you. /Isn't it time for me to, give you some presents, to return to you?"

Editors note: Poetry translation by Abdallah Al Udhari.

Architects dream of restoring Zanzibar to former glory

By Frances Kerry
Reuters

ZANZIBAR — A winding maze of dilapidated mansions, peeling paint, rusting balconies, greyed walls and dank alleyways, Zanzibar town has fallen on hard times.

But plans are in hand to halt the decay in the picturesque capital of this Indian Ocean island, which once thrived on an exotic trade in slaves, spices and ivory between mainland Africa and rest of the world.

German architect Erich Meffert sits in a spacious, cool and newly-painted seafront Arab mansion and dreams of the heyday of the Stonetown, as the historic quarter is called.

"We are trying to get life back into the place," Meffert, chief architect with the Stonetown Conservation Authority, told Reuters. "We've

stopped serious deterioration for the moment."

The authority, run with the help of state, United Nations and other foreign government funding, began refurbishing a handful of buildings 18 months ago.

Workmen are now putting the finishing touches to a mansion which will be the new town hall. Down the road, the walls of an old Arab warehouse are being coated with lime plaster from huge vats.

Grubby Zokomohogo Square, once an open-air meeting place, is beginning to shine again with paint and new roofing.

"We hope once people see this square they will be inspired to do a little restoration work," said local architect Isa Sarbok Makram. "This is how the whole town should look."

Zanzibar, ruled by the sultans of Oman from 1822 and a

British protectorate from 1890, gained independence along with neighbouring Pemba Island in 1963. After the revolution a year later, the islands were linked with mainland Tanzania and the Socialist government here retained a degree of autonomy.

Ruins on Zanzibar show that Middle East settlers were here 1,000 years ago. A fort in the capital dates from Portuguese occupation in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Most of the Stonetown was built by Arab and Indian traders in the 19th century and still looks scarcely touched by the modern world.

Old men squat behind piles of groceries in tiny open-fronted shops, craftsmen hammer brass decorations into huge wooden chests, veiled Muslim women peer from behind carved doors and ragged children bowl hoops

through the puddles.

But over the last 25 years, the Stonetown — named by UNESCO as one of the world's most important towns and cities — has literally been falling apart.

Dozens of houses in the Stonetown began crumbling after the revolution in 1964, when the majority African population overthrew decades of Arab dominance.

Thousands of Arabs were killed, thousands more fled. Their homes were confiscated by the government and let out to poor African families — who could not afford their upkeep.

Mangrove wood structural poles rotted and roofs leaked, spelling disaster for delicate coral and lime walls.

"Over the past few years there were 10 or more building collapses a year," said Meffert.

Some of the Arab and Indian families who fled in 1964 have returned to set up business since the government started liberalising its economic and political system in 1984.

The government, which had largely ignored the Stonetown and built dreary housing blocks on the city outskirts with East German aid, also began to recognise the value of the Stonetown for everyday use and as a potential tourist attraction.

Meffert said restoration has been limited by shortage of funds — the government and United Nations programme has so far spent only a modest \$50,000.

Ideally, private enterprise would also spend money on the town, carefully supervised to ensure architectural styles were respected, Meffert said. Part of the incentive to res-

tore the Stonetown is tourism, frowned on until recently but now encouraged by the government. The island's economy is dependent on the fluctuating world price of cloves, its main export.

Tourist facilities are limited to a few seedy hotels in the Stonetown, a gloomy government-run hotel and a cluster of beach guest houses.

A few luxury beach resorts are planned and the first, run by Italians, opened last month.

But few people on Zanzibar want to see thousands of package tourists milling around their historic capital.

"We want to encourage select tourism and we think the Stonetown will be a good attraction. But we don't want the place overrun," said Andrew Katema, general manager of the state-run Zanzibar Tourist Corporation.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Nov. 6

8:30 Bill Cosby Show

Theo is trying to convince his father to finance a long scientific trip to Egypt... and to that end Theo summons help from his professor.

9:10 Black Forest

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie of the Week

The Godfather

One of the most riveting American gangster movies, which provides an insight into the world of Mafia business, within an absolutely superb performance from Marlon Brando and others.

Friday, Nov. 7

8:30 Coach

Hayden wants to spend the weekend at Christine's house. There he discovers that Christine does not like secrets hidden from her.

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

The Godfather Part II

Saturday, Nov. 8

8:30 Good Morning Miss Bliss

The students want to hold a big dance party at school but the management refuses. Miss Bliss intervenes on behalf of the students and dances with them too.

9:00 Encounter

9:30 French Feature Film

A political documentary



A scene from the new episode of German series, Derrick, on Monday at 10:20

movie that reveals the methods used by the U.S. to fix regimes which serve its interests, in Latin America.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Cool of the Feature Film

Sunday, Nov. 9

8:30 Open House

Second Honeymoon Anyone

When Ted realises that Linda's efficiency at work is dependent on her relationship with her husband, he begins to manipulate this to his advantage.

9:10 Documentary

Great Journeys

The Pan American Highway

In an effort to find out more and explore different aspects of life in the Third World countries, a young man, Hugh Williams, takes

convince her to leave Mr. Chablin.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Derrick

Johanna

Alfred plans killing his older but rich wife very meticulously but the appearance of Johanna, his wife's twin sister, ruins everything for him.

Tuesday, Nov. 11

8:30 Charles In Charge

The grandfather complains about Buddy's bad influence on Adam and asks Charles to handle the problem.

9:10 Documentary

The New Wind of Change

The winds of democratic change, coming from the Eastern Bloc, are blowing hard over the African continent, some countries are taking up pluralism, others are still resisting.

News in English

10:20 French Feature Film

Wednesday, Dec. 12

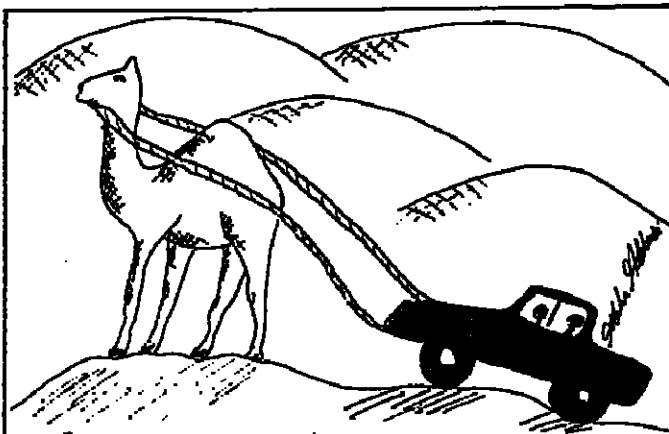
8:30 Empty Nest

The Westons plan another Christmas holiday in a mountain resort but a belated change of plan forced them to spend Christmas at home.

9:10 Economic Perspective

10:00 News in English

10:20 A Quiet Conspiracy The "Novak Story" factor is attracting the attention of many writers including the influential British writer Charles Latimer... and the Intercom paper accuses a new owner.



SEE JERRY, THIS WAY WE CAN GET THE EFFICIENCY AND THE PRESTIGE.

Taking your car to the garage

By Maha Addasi

HELP! Do you have quick answers regarding the subject of buying a car? Should I tell my friends to buy cars or should I discourage them?

To tell you the truth, owning a car is a big responsibility. Actually it's a lot like having a pet because every now and then you have to take the car to the garage for a check-up.

But unlike a pet check-up where you go in, let the veterinarian give your pet the necessary annual vaccination, pay the usual fee and leave with little to worry about until the same date next year; taking you car to the car "doctor", so to speak, is traumatic, to say the least.

Let me be a little more explicit here. The other day I took my car for an oil change. As you may have realised yourselves, the price of oil has crept up. Not so much for you to object but just enough for you to become aware of the difference.

Changing the oil is a simple task that takes minutes, but the mechanic, being the smooth, slick salesman that he is, suggested, out of the kindness of his heart, or so I thought, to give the car a complete "check-up", free of charge.

Wiping his greasy hands on a filthy cloth, his eyes gleamed with a very satisfied look. He was drooling openly at his luck. As far as I was concerned, my car was just fine. But according to the mechanic, there were so many things that were on the brink of falling apart. He gave me the impression that if I didn't have a long list of things taken care of pronto, my car would self-destruct.

Out of fear I agreed to have the car fixed. "What do we start with?" I asked.

"How about the exhaust," he said. "It has holes in it." "That's fine," I said, forgetting to ask how much it would cost me. I found out soon enough though because the exhaust was efficiently fixed while I waited.

"That will be JD 133," he said.

My reaction was that of total shock. It reminded me of the time I was told that I had to have all four wisdom teeth pulled out at one dental appointment. Actually, this was more like being told that I had to have all my teeth pulled out during one appointment, if that was ever possible. No, it was like being punched in the stomach. Or being slapped on the face, or having a bucket of ice water thrown at me. I made a mental note not to get into any accidents. I'd hate to know what a smashed engine would cost.

All these thoughts wizzed through my mind in mere micro-seconds, but what I managed to utter was this: "Excuse me?"

"JD 133," the mechanic audaciously repeated.

"I want the holes back," I said.

The mechanic looked confused, and I rephrased my request.

"My car was fine with the holes in the exhaust. I want the holes back, that is unless this exhaust, which is more like the engine's waste basket is made of pure 24 carat gold, in which case I will pay JD 133!" I was completely outraged.

First, I didn't have that much money on me. I came for an innocent oil change. I was wondering if the mechanic would accept the car doors in payment for the new exhaust. Second, I couldn't believe how easily I had been trapped in this mechanic's malicious cobweb, otherwise known as the garage.

And third, I wanted to ask where I could get an apprenticeship to become a mechanic, because it sure is one paying job!

I managed to arrange a later time that day to go pay the bill. But as far as the car was concerned it was downhill from there. When the car is taken to the garage once, it will keep needing to go back.

I have the sneaky feeling that there is some sort of secret agreement between the car and the mechanic, a deal that goes something like this.

"Pst, mechanic," says the car. "Let's cut a deal here." The mechanic's dream has come true — a talking car — and goes along with the car's suggestions.

"Here's the plan, mechanic," says the car. "First the exhaust breaks up, then the carburetor, next it's the anti-freeze tank, then I'll keep you informed about the rest of the plan."

"We split everything 50-50," says the car. "I get my share in the form of oil or anti-freeze."

The mechanic loves the idea, but all he tells you naive car owner is that his garage can give you free anti-freeze and oil every other time you come in to have something fixed. This is the mechanic's way of ensuring that you will come back to his garage.

And you, the car owner, take the bait.

So I ask myself, what's the solution?

Should I forego owning a car?

Should I get a brand new car?

The last time I suggested this to my dad he couldn't stop laughing. According to him, a furnished apartment would be cheaper, and the price tagged on a new car only includes the body of the car and the four wheels. Besides a new car is no longer new after two years.

I feel that many people dream of a time when things would be so much simpler. Times like this:

"Here's your graduation present son," says the proud father.

"Oh, a donkey," says the son. "Just what I've always wanted."

"See son, you don't have to worry about the gas bills, the insurance bills, and you can save all your money so that you and your fiancée could get married sooner!" the father points out.

But you must agree that certain problems may arise. How can this guy guarantee that his fiancée wouldn't leave him for the rich guy next door who owns a horse? Back to square one. To buy a car or not to buy a car? That is the question.

Victory

By E. Yaghi

In the cool mountains of southern Lebanon once lived a young woman by the name of Intisar who had been born and bred in a stone house which overlooked a small village. Before the outbreak of civil war, which ravaged the country and the Israeli invasion, the mountains and valleys had been filled with honest labour and peace, but now life was hard, money was scarce, families were fragmented and relationships had deteriorated.

"Mama, I'm going down to the village to buy you some vegetables for supper," Intisar said as she put her arms around her mother and hugged her. "I'll be gone for a while so please kiss my brothers for me when they come home from school."

Her mother's eyes narrowed as she studied her daughter. "Since your older brothers died, there's no controlling you, Intisar. You've grown wild and impulsive. You don't sleep well at night either. I hear you thrashing about in your bed and then you pace the floor. What's wrong? You used to tell me everything. If there's a problem, maybe I can help. And what's this you say about kissing your brothers when come from school? How long will you be gone and what are you planning?"

Intisar forced a false laugh as she moved away from her mother and said, "I'm not planning anything, mama. And I'm all right, just a little tired, that's all. Sometimes though, I dream of Ziad and Mohammad. I see them in a green garden and hear fascinating birds singing. My brothers stretch out their hands to me and they tell me to go with them. Then I wake up as if I have a fever, but break out in a sweat and don't know how to go back to sleep. I'm afraid, mama. Afraid to die. I'm a coward!"

Her eyes widened with fear as she examined her mother. The mother looked tired and worn as the colour drained from her usual ruddy complexion. He sobbed, "oh, child. What are you saying? We must forget the past. We can't let it keep haunting us. Look at your father. He lives in the past! Your brothers are dead but we cannot die too. We have to live for as long as God wills us to. But what's this talk of death? You aren't a coward. You'll get married and have children. You're young and you have much to live for yet."

It was no use. They had been over this subject a hundred times before. Words of marriage usually ended in Intisar screaming in protest and stomping out of the room. But not today. Instead, she said, "OK, mama. We'll talk about this later. We'll talk about getting married. Where's Papa? I want to ask him if he needs anything. Meanwhile, you think of the things you want me to get you."

Your father's out on the porch smoking. Of course he'll ask for nothing because he desires nothing. See if he finished drinking his tea and bring the teapot and his cup back with you."

Intisar shook her head and went out to the sunken porch. It had all been so beautiful once. Now, the veranda, like the rest of their house was torn and crumbling. Near an olive tree, her father sat on a small stool, his head bent down in silence. He didn't speak much anymore. Before the Israeli invasion, Intisar had been his favourite child because she was his only daughter. She could make him laugh and her presence would let his eyes sparkle. He always gave her money to buy a new dress, or shoes, or at least a ribbon for her dark hair, but now he sat in silence, shutting her out, shutting out the world. Cigarette butts lay crushed on the ground close to his feet.

She came behind him, flung her arms around his neck and kissed him gently. "What are you thinking about, Papa? I'm going down to the village to get some vegetables for Mama. Do you need anything? Shall I get you some tobacco?"

He released her arms and turned to look at her with liquid eyes, shaking his head negatively. "All right, Papa. I'll bring you some tobacco anyway or if not, at least I'll do something that will make you happy," she walked off the porch as her eyes misted in secret tears. No, I'll not cry, she thought. I must be brave. I must do this for Papa, Ziad and Mohammad!

Impatiently, she listened to her mother's vacant words, as she listed the items she wanted from the village. She then grabbed her bag and kissed her mother's cheek and set out on her journey. On the way down to the village, she stopped at her friend's house. She rapped on the door three times. It opened and she pushed herself inside the dark room. "Is everything ready? Did you get the explosives that we made together? Do you think they'll do the job? I don't want to fail now, Nadia. This is a matter of life or death, and God willing, it will end in death!"

Nadia clutched Intisar's hand and pressed it warmly. "Are you sure you want to go through with this, Intisar? We can always call the whole thing off. Think about it. You can still change your mind. We won't blame you."

"No," she said roughly, looking at her friend. "I've got to go through with this. It will only take a little while and then it will all be over. No one lives forever! I don't want to grow old, grey and useless. I'm doing this for Ziad, Mohammad and Lebanon, for God, and yes, for myself. I'm not going to get married and have children and then lose everything. I want to go out of this life with a fight and I want to take as many with me as I can. Hurry now! We must keep to our schedule. Put the explosives in my shopping bag."

Nadia took the bag and carefully placed the explosives in the bottom of it. She then grabbed Intisar and kissed her as tears rolled down both their cheeks. "I'll miss you, Nadia. I'll miss mama, papa and my little brothers too. I'll miss my youth, the youth that I never really had and I'll miss my beautiful Lebanon that once was one of the best countries in the world to live in. Please tell mama not to cry for me. I'll be a martyr! Please remember to take some tobacco to my father when you tell him about me, for I promised him I'd buy some for him. And tell papa to be proud of me and that this act is in revenge for my brothers. Perhaps one day he will know how to smile and live again. Goodbye, Nadia, you've been a dear friend."

After they embraced, Intisar brushed her tears off her solemn face and slowly walked out of Nadia's house and made her way down the mountain, but circled the village, avoiding it. The day was really beautiful. A beautiful day for dying. She couldn't have picked a better one. Winter hadn't yet come. The autumn sun seemed to shine down on her with a special radiance, warming her cold hands and heart. The dry grass cracked beneath her feet. She passed olive trees yet laden with their black and green fruit. She passed orange and lemon groves and their flowers smelled sweet and pretty. She heard little children laughing in the trees not far from her and she smiled a sad smile. Soon, she would be leaving the beauty of this world for a better place, a world where there was no death, hate or war. If only she could be brave and stop shaking!

After a while, she approached a clearing and continued walking towards the Israeli self-declared zone. She frowned at her watch. Right on time. It would be just a few more minutes.

Two Israeli vehicles soon appeared. They were filled with soldiers who were laughing and happy. Happy to raid, happy to kill, happy to plunder a land and a people not theirs. Intisar's hand quickly moved automatically to the bottom of the cold metal explosives and she detonated her homemade terror. One second to bravery and eternity. The bomb tore through the silence of the day, blowing the girl to pieces as well as the two vehicles. The laughs of the soldiers turned to mortified screams of horror, and then there was a void and silence. The hills shuddered.

Intisar has joined her brothers now and their hands that were outstretched have met hers. She smiles and her laughter reflects on Ziad's and Mohammad's faces somewhere in the land of Heaven where all martyrs go near the Throne of God. Nearby she can hear a chorus of angels singing as they move in flight.

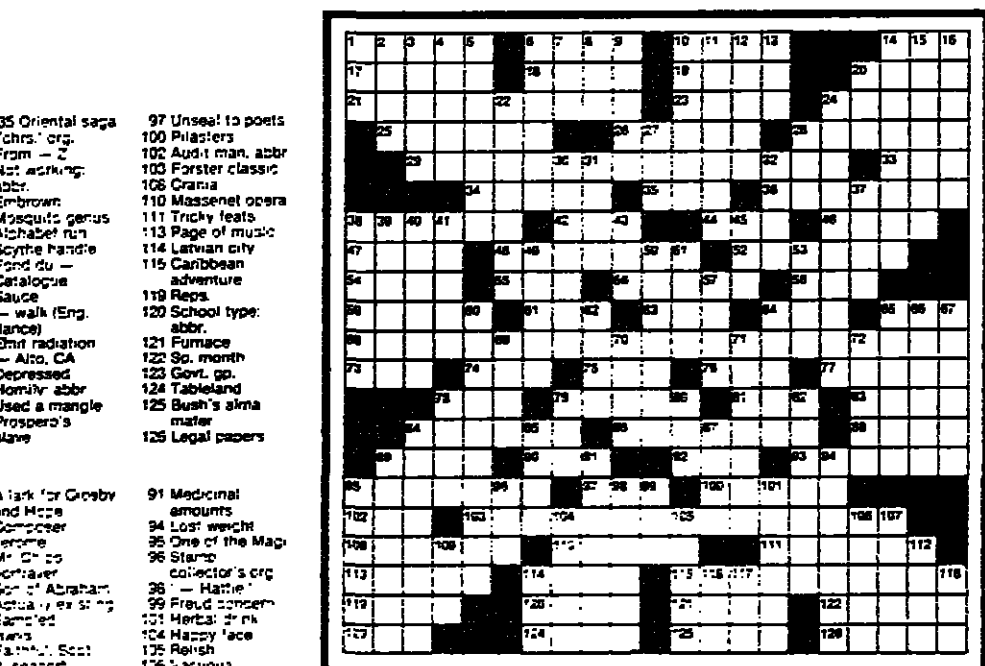
Weekend Crossword

TRAVELS BY VCR

By William Cauter

ACROSS

- 1 Brilliant parrot
- 6 Economist Smith
- 10 Broadway bust
- 14 Shock
- 17 Bouquet
- 18 Travel need
- 19 Mother of
- 20 Comic writer Dell
- 21 Shepard's
- 22 Southwestern tale
- 23 Early Eng playwright
- 24 Under county
- 25 Decade
- 26 "A House is Not a Home"
- 27 Fast food
- 28 French vehicle
- 29 Query word
- 34 Notions
- 35 More musically
- 36 Thunder bolt
- 37 Vander
- 42 Bashful
- 44 "Of Dracula"
- 45 Scott, hillside
- 47 Gen Bradley
- 48 Dave second
- 49 Soyuz hendri
- 50 Judgment
- 52 Aachen
- 54 Rom money
- 55 — Lanka
- 56 Future glances
- 58 Gensel grass
- 59 More crafty
- 61 Inquire
- 63 Turn right
- 64 Rather
- 66 Cambridge school letters
- 67 With it
- 68 Mao — lung
- 69 Narcotic
- 70 Tennis great
- 71 Sherer
- 72 Glass base
- 73 Pict of the
- 74 Santa's
- 75 "Calvin"
- 76 (WWI) film
- 77 Legal caper
- 78 One of the
- 79 Roman goddess
- 80 — Smokey
- 81 plent
- 82 A Movie
- 83 Race on the
- 84 Thomas
- 85 Judge
- 86 Take it easy
- 87 Retained
- 88 35 Oriental saga
- 89 Tchaik. org.
- 90 Audi man, abbr
- 91 Not aswing
- 92 Mallet opera
- 93 Mycenaean genus
- 94 Alphabet run
- 95 Latinian city
- 96 Ford du
- 97 Catologue
- 98 Saude
- 99 Reps
- 100 School type: abbr.
- 101 Race
- 102 So. month
- 103 Govt. go.
- 104 Tableland
- 105 Bush's alma mater
- 106 Legal papers
- 91 Medicinal amounts
- 92 Lost weight
- 93 One of the Map
- 94 Staro
- 95 collector's org
- 96 "Hattie"
- 97 Freud concern
- 98 Herakl: phn
- 99 Hazy: face
- 100 Rerish
- 101 Vicious
- 102 USN rer
- 103 Wordless
- 104 Dream signal
- 105 Gaudier of
- 106 Junction
- 107 Gibson of
- 108 "Gallipoli"
- 109 Integers: abbr

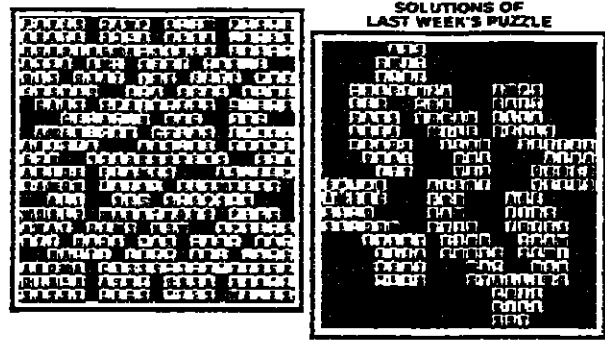


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Cool singer scored hit with a new slow song, wins pretty sizable prize.
2. Kids thought toothbrushes in their Christmas stockings a bum tradition.
3. There's a warm feeling of happiness when your doggoes grumpy cat yields to your caress.
4. It was always said that healthy breath had breadth.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. RE RP PORT LOIEZ RP WAVZ PARK TLY.
- NIE O NOT PINKICK FOR LOAL RE
- TRFOYLOC FRUVEELVZ.
2. EANCE-GITABZ VABNOICHZLZ INK TAZLCW
- CAJZHFKF JKAJCK ERHLY AOK GAAL VBZLCW
- HO LXE JIZL.
3. NEKKEEVN POFKX H WIFT EUTFENEL
- DAFY AFV YED ERTIVELY WHETY.
4. UNABLE RAU KJID ME DIR KBZU IT
- XAUCEL BTREN BSS. DLMRAU LNIXUEELZ
- DIN NUBS.
- 54 Makes ready
- 55 Following
- 56 Mowry in
- 57 Tokyo
- 58 Rope joiners
- 59 — Plumes
- 60 Be idle
- 61 It wine
- 62 Understanding
- 63 Promontory
- 51 Actress Gardner
- 52 Limbs
- 53 Blueprint
- 54 A few
- 55 Got an "A" on
- 56 Regret
- 57 Double cure
- 58 Woodsman's tool
- 59 Dishes
- 60 Killed
- 61 Search group



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

Diagramless

21 X 19, By James Barrick

ACROSS

- 1 Don't die
- 2 Resident of Eden
- 3 Accord
- 4 Heavenly body
- 5 Crave
- 6 "Of Music"
- 7 One animal
- 8 Above
- 9 Certain Italian
- 10 Bold fellow
- 11 Excuse in a courtroom
- 12 Mouth organ
- 13 Despicable
- 14 Breakwater
- 15 Correct a text
- 16 G. S. Cooper
- 17 Top food
- 18 G. S. Cooper
- 19 Refrain available
- 20 Performations
- 21 Air prince
- 22 Tear roughly
- 23 Old path
- 24 Built
- 25 Black to poets
- 26 Highlander
- 27 Begins to move
- 28 Bring up
- 29 Catcall: abbr
- 30 Tardy
- 31 Crowbar
- 32 Bear patiently
- 33 Kind of book or strip
- 34 Gainer for one holiday
- 35 Consumed
- 36 Proclamation
- 37 Not palatable
- 38 Cal: abbr.
- 39 School dance
- 40 Society one
- 41 — Aves
- 42 Covers in a way
- 43 Battery
- 44 Where
- 45 Marquis
- 46 Gaining
- 47 Headband
- 48 Bar: abbr
- 49 Ledges
- 50 Mowry in
- 51 Tokyo
- 52 Rope joiners
- 53 — Plumes
- 54 Be idle
- 55 It wine
- 56 Understanding
- 57 Promontory

By Paul Holmes
Reuter

Austria goes mad for Mozart in bicentenary year

SALZBURG, Austria — Musical question: What do a pair of skis, a bottle of perfume and a hairdresser's party have in common? Answer: They're all making money out of Mozart.

As Austria prepares to mark the 200th anniversary next year of the death of classical music's most prolific composer, organisers are battling in vain to keep it cultural.

"We are avoiding everything that smacks of kitsch, tastelessness and absurdity," said Professor Peter Weiser, coordinating Vienna city celebrations.

Nevertheless, "Mozart mania" is proving music to the ears of entrepreneurs.

The 1991 bicentenary will witness celebrations around

the world to honour Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, credited with 626 compositions in 35 years that took him from child genius to scourge of the establishment.

Salzburg, city of Mozart's birth on Jan. 27, 1756, and Vienna, where he died on Dec. 5, 1791, will be the major venues. Both have arranged year-long feasts of opera, concerts, concertos and church music.

Vienna's celebrations will climax in a performance of Mozart's Requiem on Dec. 5, 1991 in St. Stephen's Cathedral where the composer's funeral was held before he was buried in an unmarked communal grave.

Congresses and exhibitions will explore every aspect of Mozart's life, from how freemasonry influenced his work to the mystery of whether his death was due to rheumatic fever, syphilis or poisoning by his arch-rival Antonio Salieri.

But while organisers say the emphasis of their packed programmes will be on culture, it seems Austria knows few bounds in kitsch and commerce.

Vienna itself will have a "Figaro Ball" for hairdressers in January, honouring the Spanish barber of Mozart's opera *The Marriage of Figaro*.

A Salzburg perfume maker has dreamed up a new line for

women — "Mozart... A New Symphony" — and a ski manufacturer is making skis named after the great composer, with his portrait and a chronology of his life stamped on the surface. It says they are aimed at the Japanese market.

"Anniversaries like this always attract commercial interests these days," said Wolfgang Rehm, organiser of the Mozart Week Music Festival staged each winter in Salzburg by the International Foundation Mozarteum.

"I don't think it's any different here from anywhere else in the world."

Rehm's office is on the Quaint Getreidegasse where

the house of the composer's birth draws 500,000 visitors a year, in the middle of a district devoted to marketing Mozart.

The street sports a Mozart cafe, Mozart drugstore, a Figaro hairdresser and countless shops selling souvenirs that range from musical busts to chamberpots.

Tourists can tuck into chocolate-covered spheres of nougat and green marzipan called Mozart balls and quench their thirst on "Mozart liqueur" or "Nannerl," a schnaps named after the composer's sister and sold in violin-shaped bottles.

Salzburg's tourist industry is organising special packages for foreign visitors in 1991,

with opera and concert tickets as part of the deal.

Among the outings on offer is "eine kleine nachtmusik mit Mozart" — trips to Klessheim Palace outside Salzburg for an evening buffet meal to the strains of a string quartet in 18th century dress. It costs up to 1,500 schillings (\$150) a head.

Visitors to Vienna could opt for a horse-drawn coach trip to Prague in September, retracing Mozart's voyage in 1787 from a city that was turning its back on him to one where his music was so popular it was whistled in the streets.

Neither Salzburg nor Vienna was particularly kind to the

composer during his life.

Mozart moved from Salzburg to Vienna after falling out with his employer the archbishop, who had appointed him concert master at the age of 13, over his frequent wanderings around Europe with his father Leopold.

He had been the toast of Vienna as a six-year-old, bouncing on the knee of the Empress Maria Theresa after performing for her court at Schoenbrunn Palace with his child-sized violin.

But Mozart's adult years in the city were marred by setbacks, poor receptions for his operas *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Magic Flute* and

Don Giovanni and impecunious some chroniclers blame on billiards and card-playing.

"We have certainly made amends since his death," said Rehm.

He noted that some critics believed the bicentenary bonanza could damage Mozart's work by over-exposure. "Even too much Sachertorte can be bad for you," he said in a reference to Austria's famous cake of chocolate and apricot jam.

But Rehm does not share fears of cultural indigestion for a composer whose life and works have already been the target of so much research, myth and commercial exploitation.

"Mozart would have suffered already if that were the case," said Rehm. "You only have to switch on the television to hear his music in the advertisements."

Chicago's Lyric Opera harmonises innovation, solvency

By F.N. d'Alessio
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — General director Ardis Krainik is steering the Lyric Opera of Chicago into the 21st century, and she feels the way to reach the wild blue yonder is to stay in the black.

Once again this year, the woman who told Luciano Pavarotti his services in Chicago has come up with an operatic marvel, rarer than a superstar tenor. It's called solvency.

"We haven't had a deficit since 1981, and for the second year in a row our entire season was sold out by opening night," Lyric spokeswoman Susan Mathieson said proudly. "Our ticket sales will top \$11 million. Our fund-raising goal for the year is \$7.95 million, and we're right on target for that, too."

The current eight-opera season at Lyric began Sept. 14 and is the first of a decade-long initiative Miss Krainik has dubbed "toward the 21st century." It's a programme meant to showcase often-overlooked 20th century operatic works, reshape productions of more traditional operas and, most importantly, point the way to the future.

That future, as Miss Krainik sees it, is "our own, unique American opera, not just a hashed-over European art form."

Chicago's first taste of what such opera might be came on Oct. 27, when Lyric presented its first production of Minnesota composer Dominick Argento's 1976 work, *The Voyage Of Edgar Allan Poe*. Argento's hallucinatory opera has been performed before, both in the United States and Europe. But it had never received a full-scale production in a major house until Miss Krainik hired Pulitzer-winning director Frank Galati to bring it to the Lyric stage.

The opening night audience greeted Poe, a tale filled with death, madness and suggestions of necrophilia, with wild applause and multiple curtain calls.

Appropriately, Poe was still running over Halloween, and the timing reflects the canny Krainik strategy that has sold out the 3,564-seat Civic Opera House for every performance in recent years. That strategy mixes innovation, superstar vehicles and old favourites.

The 1990 season began with soprano Jessye Norman's Chicago debut, which came in Gluck's 1767 *Alceste*. The 18th-century music was juxtaposed against Robert Wilson's ultra-modern set designs and costumes, the first production he had done for an American opera house.

Alceste caused grumbling among some audience members, who complained of the lack of English-language subtitles that have become standard under Miss Krainik's management.

All other Lyric productions

this season have subtitles, including Poe, which is sung in English.

After *Alceste*, Lyric's season moved to the mid-19th century sumptuousness of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* and on into the early 20th century with Puccini's *Girl of the Golden West*. The Puccini work gave tenor Placido Domingo a chance to revel in the spaghetti western role of Johnson Di Sacramento and to romance the keeper of the Polka Saloon.

Then came Poe, complete with premature burial, a pendulum and a masque of the red death.

"Red's not a colour we like around here, financially, but it's fine for costumes," Ms. Mathieson commented.

The rest of Lyric's 1990-91 season is more traditional fare, Lucia Di Lammermoor, Rigoletto and Carmen will be presented from Thanksgiving to Christmas, and a reworking of its acclaimed 1985-6 *The Magic Flute* will appear in January.

Miss Krainik has not announced the 1991-2 portion of "toward the 21st century." But she says composer William Bolcom is preparing "McTeague," an operatic version of Frank Norris' 1899 naturalistic novel as the centerpiece of the 1992-3 season. *McTeague* is to be staged by film director Robert Altman, who will tackle the same material Erich von Stroheim used for his silent movie epic, *Greed*.

The 1992-3 season also will feature the beginning of an even more ambitious project, a mounting of Richard Wagner's monumental Ring cycle. Zubin Mehta is scheduled to conduct one of the four Ring operas each season until 1996. The entire cycle is to be performed again in the spring of that year.

Miss Krainik says there will be world premieres of two other operas in the 1996-7 and 1999-2000 seasons — and both will be by American composers.

It's a major departure from the views of Miss Krainik's late predecessor, Lyric founder Carol Fox, whose predilection for European works and singers earned the Chicago company the nickname of "La Scala West."

Miss Fox's idea of a tribute to the U.S. bicentennial was to commission Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki and British playwright Christopher Fry to do an operatic version of John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. That work had its premiere two years later, in 1978, with sets designed to fit the stage of Milan's La Scala, not Chicago.

Paradise Lost cost a reported \$2 million and added to the sea of red ink that threatened to drown Lyric in 1980. In that year, Lyric's board persuaded the ailing Miss Fox to step down after 26 years and elevated Miss Krainik, who had been artistic director since 1975.

Intellectual chess and melancholy padding

The best German-language films are not from Germany but from Austria and Switzerland, says Hans-Dieter Seidel in his review of the 24th Hof Film Festival which appeared in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

WIM Wenders was not personally at the this year's Hof Film Festival but he did send his latest film, *Bis ans Ende der Welt*, a wonderful, ephemeral use of landscape, broodingly padded with melancholy. He was, however, at the first Hof Festival, which just goes to show that he is now 24 years older.

The Festival is no longer a novelty. It has advanced in years but it has retained its freshness. Heinz Badewitz, the organiser, is unaffected by the distresses which afflict other national and international film festivals.

His programme of 80 films this year was a significant collection without being world-shattering in any way. It awakened an unbridled enthusiasm for the cinema as such. This festival was an arena for the younger generation of German film-makers without having the wind being taken completely out of its sails by imported productions.

But Badewitz has also not been able to avoid borrowing some of the glitter from those films which have attracted attention at Cannes or Venice, films which are about to go on circuit in Germany. The festival is an inexpensive way of launching them on the cinema public.

Some examples were Godard's *Nouvelle Vague* and Paul Schrader's *Trost von Fremden*, or *Dancin' Through the Night* by Mick Ockrent from Liverpool, or the bravura performance by actor Marcello Mastroianni in Giuseppe Tornatore's *Stanno Tutti Bene*. But these great moments did not cast a shadow over the rest of the programme. In fact they brought it out of the shadows.

There were films which deserved to be brought to light, as for example American Whit Stillman's film *Metro-politan*, an ironic swan-song

on social arrogance and the blasé indifference of the supposed upper classes.

A group of young people meet every evening in evening clothes, black-ties for the men, gowns for the females. They show off with their education and manners, but they do not have the slightest idea of what is going on in the real world, which is barely concealed.

These young people, all of them students, think of themselves as a notch up on yuppies. The symbol for membership of their group is the initials UHB, upper haute bourgeoisie — a species of arrogant mankind which is not by means sentenced to extinction.

These pale youths and made-up girls are so busy spending their parents' money that they have no time to look at themselves to see that the courtship dance of superficiality has become a giddy business. This is all seen from the viewpoint of one of the young couples.

Whit Stillman's film is set in Manhattan in the days between Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is elegant, revealing, full of wit and is unintentionally blasé. Direct Stillman plays intellectual chess with his characters even if his characters turn on one another pitilessly to the delight of the audience.

Hal Hartley's *The Unbelievable Truth* is just as witty. It is a social farce of which the director himself said that it dealt with the "similarity between social relationships and capitalist transactions."

There is *Lolita*, who has just left high school, and the mechanic who has just left prison. He is so buttoned-up and chaste that he is taken for a priest. They are so different there is a great deal of tension between them.

Or Keith McNally's *End Of The Night* which deals with the pregnancy psychosis



Mirjana Jokovic in Peter Sehr's film *Das Serbische Madchen*

of a man about to become a father. Day after day he runs after other women, because he thinks he is misunderstood as a man and even runs away from himself: in the end this costs him his job and his life.

Bloody, escalating intrigues of false suspicion, in Joel and Ethan Coen's *Miller's Crossing*, with excuses, infamy and pacifying calculation; the film is a game about rising and falling, about power and impotence, resentment and advantage, which are set against the social pros and cons of mastery cinema and comic models. Films of this sort are reflexes to reality, and its reflection.

German films will always battle in vain to have the polish of the Americans, who give an apparent effect of self-assurance. But the German film has been languishing in the doldrums for a long time, yet there are signs that a fresh wind is gathering to blow through the sails.

Our film promotion programmes continuously show film-makers making their first film but little attention is paid to their progress after

It is far easier for an applicant to get financing for a first film than to get help for future films.

Three years ago Jan Schütte had considerable success with his debut film as a director, *Spicy Rice*, but he has overcome the obstacles of his following film, much more difficult to understand, with propriety. His *Winkelmanns Reisen* was thought well of in Venice and is soon to be put on the cinema circuit.

There was another film which was much praised at Hof: Sönke Wortmann's *Eine Wahnsinnesche*, soon to be screened on the Second Television Channel. But the situation has gone so far that the best films in the German language are coming from Austria and Switzerland. The use of the same themes makes this view clear.

For instance dealing with the innermost feeling of children who withdraw into the realm of total inaccessibility, because of the penetration of the world, firmly ordained, the suicide of a mother or the sudden death of a grandmother.

Petra Katharina Wagner, born in Lindlar in 1958, shows in her film *Staub vor der Sonne*, the case of such an almost lethal inner wound as hopelessly tragic.

But artificially-styled reality must always be shattered, because bare images, simply stretching out to realism, cannot rescue the significance suggested. The sense of speechlessness presented still remains dumbfounded.

Austrian Leopold Huber, born in 1955, goes in the opposite direction with his film *Mirakel*, namely into fantastic stylisation. This brings back from the recesses of the mind of the audience memories of childhood, long thought to be dead.

Andreas, aged 9, runs away from his foster-parents with whom he had been placed after the death of his grandmother. He avoids the church and school, and only finds the ability to accept the loss of his previous security in the snow village which he has built and the dialogue he has with a good spirit. The new sense of security, hidden behind the good spirit, is a vagabond, who wants to find

somewhere to stay in the local community for the winter.

Huber describes the style, put on film in magical winter light by cameraman Christian Berger, as symbolic realism. It is a balancing act; to remain realistic in observation and to reach back to the mythical in the contacts of the invented characters with one another.

Leningrad, November by Andreas Schmidt and Oleg Morosov is a German-Russian co-production. It deals with images of forlornness, expeditions through a city from the perspective of someone returning, "which unite intimacy and the sense of being excluded."

Peter Sehr's film, *Das Serbische Madchen*, tells the story of the journey of a young girl from a Serbian village to Hamburg, to the father of her unborn child and the return to the village.

Sehr, from Germany, tells his story with familiar clichés between defiance and doubt, in the survival of the unforeseen. Thanks to the fine performance of Mirjana Jokovic his film has an original tone of sorrow and rebelliousness to it.

Franz Kälén from Switzerland, who made *Rampass*, is a self-taught film-maker. He presents young people who live for their cars alone. They are bored to death: their activities are as thoughtless as the mad rush of the hamster on a treadmill. He has compressed his experiences in a cumbersome but nevertheless impressive way.

These are three examples showing the variety of the programme. The word "Rampass," by the way, is Swiss dialect for a high-spirited good-for-nothing.

Hof, once on the periphery of the Federal Republic has, since unification, moved to the centre of economic interest, but there was no evidence of this at the festival. This shows, however, in the best way, that Heinz Badewitz does not pay attention to political opportunity but solely to his personal preferences.

Leningrad marks Tchaikovsky's 150th anniversary

LENINGRAD (AP) — Thousands packed the Leningrad Philharmonic's great hall and hundreds more stood outside in the freezing cold to hear a Tchaikovsky concert on the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth.

Loudspeakers projected the 1812 Overture and other works by the Russian composer onto the snow-covered Artists Square last Saturday night. Featured artists included American violinist Itzhak Perlman, cellist Yo Yo Ma and soprano Jessye Norman.

"You know, my dear, I am so tired of living in this mess — all these congresses, demonstrations, decrees and rationing. Here, for an hour

or so, you can forget about all that," said 89-year-old Anna Smolina.

She was one of the ordinary Soviets who braved minus 10-degree Celsius (14-degree Fahrenheit) temperatures to hear the two-hour concert.

In keeping with Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's original score for the 1812 Overture, churchbells rang and 16 cannons that had been sent for the occasion from the United States fired to accompany the Leningrad Orchestra, directed by Yuri Temirkanov.

American concert impresario Peter Gelb, a former assistant manager of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, organised by the concert. He previously arranged the return appearances in the Soviet

Union of emigre pianist Vladimir Horowitz and cellist-conductor Mstislav Rostropovich.

The concert was televised across the Soviet Union and to an estimated audience of 25 million people in more than two dozen other countries. It is scheduled to be shown later this year in the United States, according to Kim Smedvig, an assistant to Gelb.

Western television companies flooded Artists Square with light, making a statue of the Russian poet Alexander Pushkin and a small grove of barren trees stand out starkly against the snow.

"It was a fairy tale setting. The tree branches were black against the snow, and then the music poured out and took my

breath away," Maxim Korzhov, a Leningrad journalist, said afterward.

Sergei Kondratiev, 18, a French horn student, stood with four of his classmates from the Leningrad Conservatory behind a police barrier on the cobblestone square, ringing by pre-revolutionary buildings, including the Russian Museum and Maly Theatre.

"You know, we couldn't stay away from a concert in which such masters were playing. But we also couldn't get tickets to sit inside," Kondratiev explained. "Now, we're not sorry that we didn't get in. It's more beautiful here."

The concert began with the orchestra playing Tchaikovsky's Polonaise. Perlman then played the Serenade For

Strings, followed by the *Waltz-Scherzo*.

Soviet pianist Boris Berezhovsky, winner of the 1990 Tchaikovsky Piano Competition, played the 3rd Movement from 2nd Piano Concerto; Ms. Norman sang three songs for voice and piano; the orchestra played a movement from Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, the *Pathétique*; and Ma played the roccoco variations for cello.

The concert concluded with the 1812 Overture and a fireworks display that set some of the tree branches on fire. Firemen and militia officers who were standing by quickly put out the flames, to the entertainment of the crowd.

Tchaikovsky died in 1893 in Leningrad, where he spent

most of his life. Ms. Smedvig said it was the first time in Russia since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution that the 1812 Overture was played according to the original score, including the cannons and churchbells.

At the last minute, Russian Orthodox Church officials decided that ringing the bells for a concert would be sacrilegious, threatening to spoil the plans worked out in months of negotiations, she said.

However, she said, the concert producers came up with a quick alternative: They used tape recordings of Russian and American churchbells to supplement the faint ringing of a handful of churches across the city that eventually did cooperate.

Researchers find inherited mutation related to breast cancer

By Paul Reccer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Researchers have found an inherited abnormal gene that can lead to a high susceptibility for breast cancer, a major discovery about the tendency for malignancies to be passed from generation to generation.

In a study to be published Friday in the *Journal of Science*, a group of scientists say the cancer promoting mutation was found by studying the genetic pattern in a group of families that have an exceptionally high rate of six types of cancers, including breast cancer.

"Up until now there have been no inherited genes isolated and identified which provided susceptibilities to some of the common adult malignancies," said Dr. Stephen Friend, a Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Centre scientist.

Friend, who was lead author of the study, said the mutation was found on what is called the P53 cancer suppressor gene. For people who inherit a mutated P53 gene, he said, "their chance of getting a malignancy by age 60 is 90 per cent."

Dr. Andrew Feinberg, a University of Michigan Cancer Centre researcher and co-discoverer of genes related to a rare kidney cancer, said the P53 discovery adds a step in the cascade of cell changes that is thought to lead to some cancers.

"From a scientific viewpoint, it is very important because it helps us understand the sequence of events that lead to cancer," said Feinberg. He emphasised that there are a number of other steps, still unknown, that cause a normal cell to become cancerous.

The P53 gene is one of a group of genes that control cell growth. The gene, in effect, blocks the uncontrolled division of cells, hence, suppresses tumor development. If this function is lost through mutation, then the cell lacks one of the controls that keep division in balance. The mutated P53 gene has been detected in the past in a number of types of cancers, but the new study is the first to find that the mutation can be inherited.

Friend said that although the loss of the P53 function is only one of a series of steps that can lead to cancer, it demonstrates just how fragile is the natural protection against cancer.

"Up until now, the question in the common adult malignancies has been whether any one step would make a difference and provide a susceptibility," he said. "This shows that the answer is yes. If you are born with an inactive region in one gene, then that gives you a hidden susceptibility to malignancies."

Friend said he and his colleagues isolated the specific P53 gene mutation by studying people with what is called the Li-Fraumeni Syndrome. These are families in which there is an inherited tendency to develop one of six types of cancer at an early age, often during childhood.

Breast cancer is the most common malignancy among Li-Fraumeni families, but they can also develop leukemias, brain tumours, sarcomas of the bone and cancer of the adrenal gland.

The researchers discovered the mutation in the cells of Li-Fraumeni family members who had cancer, but not in those family members who were free of the disease.

Friend said that in the affected family members the P53 mutation was found in every cell, indicating it was passed genetically from one generation to another.

The Li-Fraumeni syndrome was first described by Frederick P. Li and Joseph F. Fraumeni Jr., both of the National Cancer Institute and coauthors of the study in *Science*. The syndrome is very rare, with only about 200 such families in the United States.

With discovery of the P53 mutation, Friend said a screening process may be developed to determine which members in a Li-Fraumeni family have inherited the abnormal gene. When one parent in a family has the mutation, there is a 50-50 chance that each child will inherit it.

Children that show the mutation, said Friend, could then undergo periodic, intensified examinations for cancer so that the malignancies they will almost certainly develop could be found very early.

Although the mutated gene is closely related to an inherited tendency for breast cancer, Friend said that a malfunctioning P53 gene is not the only genetic cause of breast cancer.

"There are multiple genes for breast cancer," he said. "This happens to be the first, but it won't be the last."

Spanish church, state cross swords in condom war

By Stephen Brown
Reuters

MADRID — A racy government campaign to encourage youngsters to use condoms has put Spain's ruling Socialists and the Catholic Church on a war footing.

The country's bishops have denounced the 600-million-peseta (\$4.6-million) advertising drive as a "grave abuse of power and an attack on our moral conscience."

In a 43-page document released on Nov. 22, the bishops' conference called Spain's Catholic congregation to arms in the battle against immorality and delivered its most stinging attack ever on Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's Socialist government.

Jingles by popular Spanish rock groups aim the radio campaign at youngsters while a television advertisement shows a stern teacher confronting a gym class with a

condom he found in the changing rooms.

"Whose is this?" he asks. "One by one the whole class, boys and girls, put up their hands in solidarity with culpability."

"We decided to launch this campaign to promote the condom because we think it's the only method effective all-round," said German Arredondo, the Health Ministry brain behind the campaign.

Campaign posters list the risks of unprotected sex, including unwanted pregnancies and a grisly list of sexually transmitted diseases including AIDS.

"Another key idea is to get boys to lose the embarrassment they feel at the moment of putting it on, and get girls used to the idea that asking boys to put one on is no sin," she said.

Sin is what bothers the bishops. Since the end of dictator Francisco Franco's

pro-Catholic regime in 1975 the loss of the church's grip on society has gone hand-in-hand with a sharp increase in sexual freedom.

The Catholic Church is no longer the state religion and though more 80 per cent of Spaniards are nominally Catholic, numbers of churchgoers have plummeted since Franco's death.

"The question is not to have safe sex, it is to have sex when and with whom your Christian conscience says: Within matrimony," said the Bishop of Majorca, Teodoro Ubeda.

Emboldened by Pope John Paul's recent appeal to chemists not to sell contraceptives, the bishops accuse the government of promoting promiscuity and of undermining parents' authority and right to bring up children according to their own convictions.

"The campaign treats male and female sexuality in a

frivolous, trivial way. What it publicises has nothing to do with authentic human love," said a statement from a meeting of bishops in Madrid earlier this month.

They quoted unspecified studies that showed condoms used by under 18-year-olds had a failure rate of 10 to 33 per cent. "They are systematically hiding from people the fact that indiscriminate sexual promiscuity is the maximum risk factor in AIDS," they said.

Spain has the third highest number of AIDS sufferers in Europe, with 6,310 reported by the beginning of November, while health sources say one in four pregnancies end in abortion.

Government spokeswoman Rosa Conde said the bishops' criticisms betrayed "considerable ignorance of what Spanish society is" and Health Minister Julian Garcia Vargas denied the cam-

paign promotes promiscuity. "It is a health matter. We are not dealing in morality. We are giving information but that doesn't mean we oblige people to use it," he said.

Catholic parents' groups are also up in arms, indignant they were not consulted about the campaign, and a group of mothers is trying to get it banned in the courts. Churchmen have criticised the government for spending public cash on it while asking for wage restraint and announcing a tight budget for 1991.

But the government, despite a few warning shots, has refrained from declaring hostilities.

It is not the first time sex has come between church and state in democratic Spain. They clashed over a condom campaign in the mid-1980s and are now bickering over plans to extend legal

grounds for abortion, which was legalised for limited circumstances in 1985 in the face of church opposition.

Divorce, abolished under Franco, was reintroduced in 1981.

They have skirmished this year over government education reforms. Clerics have traditionally exercised a strong influence over education and say the reforms neglect the nurturing of morality in schoolchildren.

The Catholic Church and the Spanish left remember their enmity in the 1936 civil war, when churchmen sided with Franco's nationalists and leftist Republican forces butchered nearly 7,000 priests, monks and nuns.

In the northern city of Valladolid, a traditional Catholic stronghold, a small unidentified group has chosen direct action. They smashed up 50 telephone booths bearing condom campaign posters.

U.S. cocaine epidemic seen to peak but heroin makes come-back

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

WASHINGTON — After years of explosive growth, demand for cocaine in the United States appears to have levelled off but experts fear that heroin is making a comeback.

Crack, a potent, smokable form of cocaine, turned parts of major U.S. cities into virtual combat zones as addicts took to crime to feed their habits and dealers fought gun battles over shares in the lucrative market.

In the 1980s, crack spread so quickly that a report by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) labelled it "the fast food of drugs" — cheap and easily available.

"The great crack have lasted from 1983, to 1989," said Mark Kleiman, an expert on drug policy at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "From '85 to '89, the number of new users doubled every year. Now the growth curve has started to flatten."

Narcotics agents agree with that assessment but the reasons are not entirely clear.

Administration officials see it as a sign that Washington is winning the "war on drugs" declared by President George Bush after taking office, following the example of every U.S. president since Richard Nixon.

But assertions by Bush and his lieutenants in the drug war that cocaine use is actually declining are not borne out by statistics. "It's like the (federal) budget," said a veteran narcotics agent. "They talk about a reduction when they

mean slower increases."

Academic researchers say changes in attitude have been as important as tougher law enforcement, bigger seizures and campaigns to wipe out drug crops in the three South American countries which produce most of the world's cocaine.

In the 1970s and early 1980s, cocaine was seen as a glamour drug used by the rich and the famous. The image changed as crack spread to the ghettos of U.S. cities and ruined the lives of new users who became addicts.

"It went from everybody wanting to imagine he's a movie star or an investment banker by smoking crack to everybody thinking that those who smoke crack are welfare mothers," Kleiman said in an interview.

According to David Musto, a historian and drug expert at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, previous epidemics have gone through similar cycles.

Heroin, once associated with jazz musicians and artists, came to be seen as the drug of losers in the early 1970s. The population of heroin addicts has remained largely stable at an estimated 500,000 for the past two decades, government statistics indicate.

There are signs, however, that this is beginning to change. According to the DEA, the price of heroin has dropped while its purity has risen so sharply that smoking or inhaling it produces the same effect as injecting the weaker product of past years.

Narcotics experts say that smokable heroin — which eli-

minates the fear of contracting AIDS through infected needles — could prompt a major increase in consumption.

Traffickers and Asia's

growers of opium apparently anticipate a jump in demand in the United States, by far the world's largest market for illicit drugs.

According to the govern-

ment's latest report on the supply of illicit drugs to the United States, production of opium — the raw material for heroin — has more than doubled over the past five years in

the Golden Triangle of Burma, Laos and Thailand.

Mexico also doubled its production and Guatemala began growing opium for the first time.

Finland cuts heart disease by changing habits of a lifetime

By Nigel Stephenson
Reuters

JOENSUU, Finland — Finland has slashed death rates in one of the world's heart disease blackspots by persuading thousands of people to change the habits of a lifetime.

Leaders of the North Karelia Project, launched in 1972 in a rural province of eastern Finland, say deaths from heart disease have fallen by 40 per cent and the scheme is being emulated in several countries.

The project seeks to educate the area's 180,000 people about the dangers that can lead to heart problems — an unbalanced diet, smoking and high blood pressure.

"When we started... normal Finnish men didn't eat vegetables. They said that was for rabbits," said project director Professor Pekka Puska of the National Public Health Institute. Instead, the staples included sausages and lots of bread and butter.

There was no miracle cure, no wonder drug. The project mounted constant campaigns in schools and worked closely

with voluntary organisations and local employers, including the crucial food industry.

By 1987, mortality among middle-aged men had fallen more than 30 per cent and among women, who had fewer attacks, by 40 per cent.

The project was born of a local initiative when the people of North Karelia petitioned the authorities to do something about the alarming levels of heart disease.

"By the beginning of the 1970s... it was said Finland was the blackest spot on the world heart disease map," Puska said.

In North Karelia, Finland's poorest province, the picture was darker still. Half of the 1,000 heart attacks a year were fatal, a rate 50 per cent higher than the Finnish average.

"Everybody had close relatives who had the disease or had died. They thought it was normal but when they saw the statistics, they realised something was wrong," Puska said.

North Karelia, bordering the Soviet Union, is an important dairy farming area. Puska said this leads to high

levels of dairy fat in the local diet and of cholesterol in the blood.

Among middle-aged men when the project started, the average cholesterol level was 7.09 millimoles per litre of blood.

It has fallen to around six but ought to be under five, said Vesa Korpelainen, manager of the project's field office in Joensuu.

The number of smokers fell from 52 per cent of the population in 1972 to 36 per cent in 1987.

Intensive campaigns on the diet front were launched with the 350 local branches of Martta, a National Organisation for Homemakers which runs cookery classes.

After initial resistance, the food industry has also been willing to cooperate. "They see that health is a big factor in competition," said Puska.

At the Meira Bakery in Joensuu, manager Matti Jarvinen said the change in local tastes was clear. Demand for oatmeal bread has risen while sales of "Voitaikina," a butter-based pastry used to make traditional Christmas biscuits, have slumped.

The bakery was one of 22 work sites visited regularly by project staff who tried to persuade employees to quit smoking, watch their diets and take up exercise.

Puska said the cost of the project has been "modest" as most of the work is done by the community itself.

The project has always intended to be a model for national action. After a slow beginning, the fall in heart disease deaths throughout the country is now the same as in North Karelia.

"It is fair to say North Karelia has contributed a lot," Puska said.

The project now lays special emphasis on cutting the region's stubbornly high cholesterol levels.

Heart disease continues to account for every second death in the industrialised world and so the success of the North Karelia Project has attracted a stream of foreign health officials and politicians.

Puska said similar community-intervention programmes have been launched in other parts of Europe and the United States.

The latest medical discoveries in France

By Jean Chabrier

Liver Transplants

FIRST of all, it should be pointed out that when people complain of their liver (and, in France, they are legion), the liver is hardly ever to blame and, in 95 per cent of cases, the problem lies with the gall bladder. Indeed, the liver is an "oversized" organ and at least 40 per cent of the liver cells have to be diseased for the first clinical and biological disturbances to appear.

Nevertheless, the liver does have fearful enemies. These are primitive cancer, cirrhosis very often caused by alcohol and the lesion of viral hepatitis. The only chance of survival is by transplant surgery which is sometimes performed in emergency (for sudden hepatitis or malformation in children).

France is the forefront for this form of surgery. She is the leader in Europe, particularly the Paul Brousse Centre in Villejuif, near Paris, which recently carried out its 500th transplant. The number of

operations has been steadily increasing with 130 cases in 1988 and 150 in 1989. The patients, who had been practically doomed, regain a good quality of life and most often take up their professional and other activities normally, 90 per cent survive more than a year and 80 per cent more than three years, with this latter figure remaining at a steady level so long as immunosuppressants are taken daily.

The surgical and medical technique has now been perfectly developed, with the only difficulty lying, as always with transplants, with donors. Patients usually have to wait from two to six months.

Mental illness

The way our brain works still holds a lot of mystery. After the "psycho-social" conception of mental illness, prevalent until the 70s, the rôle of neurotransmitters has appeared with all its complexity. These chemical substances, which are estimated

as numbering more than 1,500, act in infinitesimal amounts on a particular group of brain cells and control our reactions, behaviour and impulses, exactly like hormones, enzymes and vitamins do in their own areas.

Through the insufficiency or excess of their production, neurotransmitters play an essential part in the origin of mental illness, which it should be possible to cure (and not just to palliate as now), when the large amount of research being carried out at present all over the world, will have attained a better understanding of their make-up and effects, and also their interaction.

Genetics is involved. For a long time now, it has been known that mental illness could be hereditary and that the possibility of transmitting it cannot be ruled out. In 1987, from a study carried out in the United States in the Amish community which is greatly affected by manic-depressive psychosis, it

appeared that a factor of vulnerability could be found in the area surrounding the tyrosine hydroxylase gene in the short segment of chromosome 11.

In spite of its interest, this hypothesis, which could not be checked, was abandoned. A French team of researchers (J. Mallet at the CNRS and M. Leboyer at INSERM 155) recently published the results of a study demonstrating the polymorphism of the tyrosine gene, in 150 patients of this kind. Moreover, this gene, which was chosen from among many other possibilities, is involved in the synthesis of catecholamines (neuro-transmitting substances), which are, themselves, recognised as being responsible for states of depression. This fruitful direction in research is being pursued with work on schizophrenia, autism and panic disorders.

Diabetes

France has always been in the

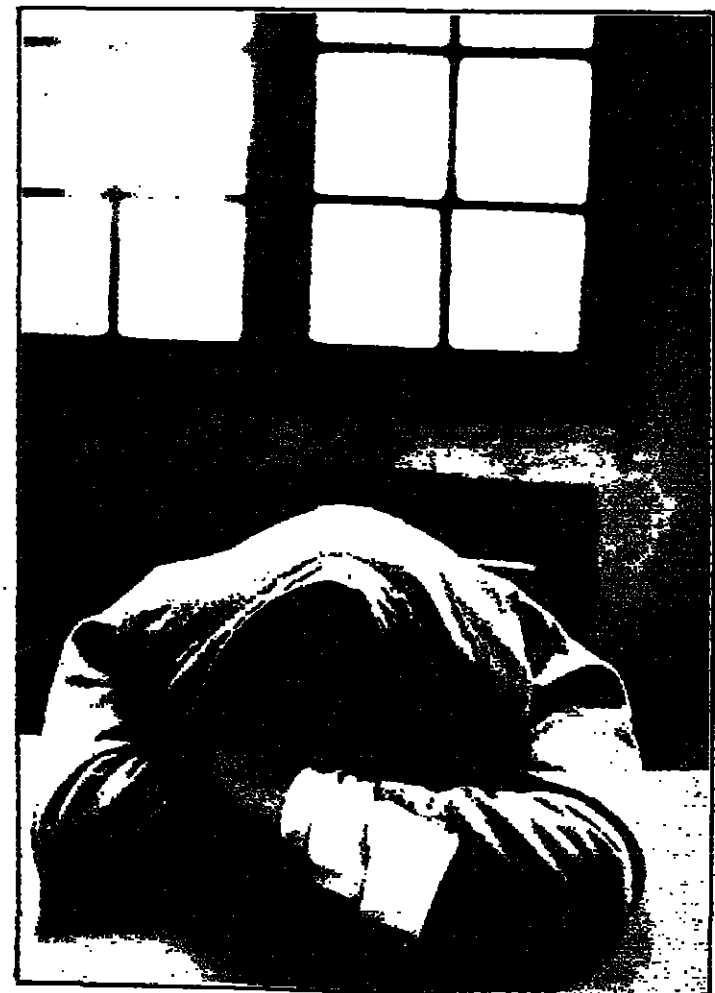
forefront of research in this disease with its multiple consequences. The hypothesis of the auto-immune origin of the disease and early detection by the HLA coding system have been the greatest achievements of the last few years. From this certainty, genetics has started to investigate the problem. A team of researchers from INSERM (V. Lepage and I. Khalil, under the leadership of Professor Degos at Saint-Louis Hospital in Paris) has studied a group of 50 diabetics with a control group of 75.

In 1988, a group of American scientists had noted the frequent absence of an amino acid, aspartate, in the gene sequence responsible. The French team completed the puzzle and located the sequence of the gene responsible by coding another amino acid, arginine in another part of the DQ molecule, using the molecular probe method.

The work of the Saint-Louis team confirms that the development of diabetes re-

sults from complex interaction between these two amino acids as well as the auto-immune nature of the disease (that is to say the self-destruction of the insulin-secreting cells in the pancreas). It is thus possible to predict the risk and to quantify it according to what the child has inherited from his parents. There is a great risk if our four types of DQ molecules present the anomaly, and a lower risk, when it is only three of them, etc., and none if it is absent.

In the long term, this work will lead to the possibility of assessing the risk for a child to be born and of prevention by treatment with immunosuppressants (of the Cyclosporine kind). Scientists also envisage the creation of "decoys", able to prevent the (viral or other) antigens, which initiate the auto-destructive reaction of the secreting cells of the pancreas, from fixing onto the DQ molecule — L'Actualité en France.



Biology helps psychology to understand mental disorders

Coup attempts are old news in Argentina

By John Reichertz
Reuter

BUENOS AIRES — A small group of rebel officers took up arms on Monday in the fourth military revolt since 1987, attempting once again to force Argentina's budding democracy to give them control of the army.

But President Carlos Menem's government, stung by the revolt two days before a visit by U.S. President George Bush, ordered rapid action to crush the revolt, imposing a state of siege.

Vice President Eduardo Duhalde said Menem's government "is determined once and for all to bring an end to all these shameful incidents that harm the national and international image of the

nation."

The first indications were that Menem had won clear-cut support for loyal troops to put down the uprising, something that former President Raul Alfonsín never achieved in the three previous military revolts.

Unlike the other three, almost bloodless, uprisings when neither side showed much inclination to fire upon brothers in arms, Monday's rebellion involved violent fighting in which at least three loyalist officers died, six were wounded and the rebels suffered a number of casualties.

But the surprise uprising was a blow to Menem's attempts to convince the United States that Argentina could be a reliable partner in hemisphere affairs.

"This does damage to Argentina, it damages the lives of Argentines and it does damage to the positive course that the government has tried to take," Presidential spokesman Humberto Toledo said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Since taking office in July of 1989, Menem has taken decisive steps to improve ties with the United States and other industrialised nations. Menem sent two military ships to join the blockade against Iraq and imposed a harsh economic programme to bring a halt to Argentina's chronic inflation.

The revolts against Alfonsín in April 1987, January 1988 and December 1988 all ended without serious fighting between rebel and loyal troops, who failed to carry out presidential orders to put down the rebellions.

But on Monday heavy artillery from loyal troops pounded the first infantry garrison in a northern suburb of Buenos Aires, a rebel stronghold where three loyalist officers died earlier in the day. Shortly after the first artillery fire, 32 rebels surrendered, witnesses said.

Officials also said rebels who had occupied coast guard installations in the port of Buenos Aires surrendered to government troops.

Around 50 rebels held out at

the army headquarters, a short distance from the Casa Rosada (pink house) presidential offices in downtown Buenos Aires. Press reports said rebels also were at the command of a dozen tanks, which had slipped away from a military unit in the northern province of Entre Rios.

Menem, a Peronist, shortly after taking office pardoned approximately 200 of the officers who had participated in the three revolts against Alfonsín's government.

The president also pledged to pardon members of military juntas that ruled Argentina from 1976-1983. Menem has said he would release the military leaders, who are serving prison terms for violations of human rights,

this month.

Menem said the pardons were designed to bring peace to the country.

A rebel spokesman, talking with radio journalists early on Monday, said the current uprising was not an attempt to topple Menem's government. They said the rebel forces recognised Menem as commander in chief of the armed forces.

But the spokesman said the rebels were demanding that retired Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin be made army commander. Seineldin, the leader of a revolt in December 1988, is serving a 60-day period of detention for issuing a warning in October regarding unrest in the armed forces.

America should listen and hear to avoid racism

By Tom Charles

I was excited to watch an old Jordanian high school friend of mine being interviewed recently by Harry Smith of CBS on This Morning from Amman, Jordan. My friend was introduced as "a leading Jordanian journalist" about the tremendous economic and political pressures bearing on Jordan as a result of the recent Middle East situation.

I found myself agreeing with most of his comments, just as years ago I came to accept his arguments for an independent Palestinian state. We had become friends back in the early 1960's while attending the International School in Geneva, Switzerland; my dad had been transferred there from the United States by the Dupont Company while his father worked at the United Nations.

But I once again was struck by the thought that my response to my Arab friend's appearance would not be the same as that of many other people here in the United States, especially in recent days. I was reacting to an old friend whom I best remembered as a terrific baseball player, a big fan of Bob Dylan, and a college student who became president of his university fraternity.

Other reactions that Friday morning to his televised comments, however, I'm sure ranged from thoughtful curiosity to anger and rejection.

I am most concerned about why we in America seem in some circumstances to be so resistant to other opinions, cultures, and nationalities. Why do ethnic jokes still find eager ears? Why have World Cup soccer and Tour De France cycling endured little public enthusiasm and taunts from the all-sports radio talk shows? Why have Arab-Americans begun to receive threats here in the United States as the Iraqi aggression has continued? Why are the Jordanian and Palestinian situations now relatively ignored in the news updates out of the Middle East? Perhaps most importantly, why do we always seem to need to generalise the villains in the world? As Jawad George, executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans, has observed, "Arabs are replacing the Soviet Union as the enemy."

Why do we, and others, often act this way? In the extreme, of course, it reflects an unyielding racist, sexist, or nationalistic perspective. In more benign and malleable forms, it might indicate a sense of vulnerability. As Cynthia Jarvis, Associate Pastor of Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey, put it recently, "most of our lives we listen only in so far as we can hear what maintains the order of our days, what confirms the judgements already made, what verifies the facts as we perceive them. Listening, really listening requires a certain vulnerability, a vulnerability most of the time we are not willing to risk."

What can we together do to risk this vulnerability and to improve our perception of the world and its response to us? Most generally, we can better distinguish between governments and their people. Student-cultural exchange programmes have been the traditional vehicle for such personal relationships. An archetypal educational example is a student's United Nations where young people have the chance to learn about and debate current international topics from different perspectives. This has been a long standing tradition at the International School of Geneva in which both my friend and I participated more than twenty years ago.

Specifically, when the National Association of Arab Americans says that it "fully supports the independence and sovereignty of Kuwait (and that it) will back whatever multinational efforts are necessary to achieve an end to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait," all Americans should listen to and hear that message and not target "look-alikes" with our frustrations over the aggression of the Iraqi government. Similarly, when Palestinians appeal for recognition of their homeland, we should hear their call and apply our democratic principles to all such deserving situations and not just to those, such as Kuwait, which serve our broader international political goals.

With the increasing globalisation of our economic and political environment, we need more than ever to understand and accept the different opinions, cultures, and nationalities in this world. The alternative "ugly American" image is too easily manipulated and communicated with today's media capabilities.

As an example, would not our current political position in the Middle East be on even firmer ground, especially among the Arab populations, if there were today an independent Palestinian state; if that were the case, Saddam Hussein would lose one of his major rallying cries to the Arab community.

My Jordanian friend and I do not agree on everything but we have learned a great deal from knowing each other. I know we've both learned through our shared experiences to try to respect and appreciate human diversity rather than to be fearful or disdainful of it. In turn, America's ability "to listen and to hear" may become every bit as important as our financial and technical expertise in today's evolving world landscape.

A resident of Belle Mead, New Jersey, Mr. Charles lived in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1961 to 1966. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

Has King Hussein been right all along

IT is four months since the Gulf crisis had erupted. For four months, the world has witnessed an amazing development of events that has brought the prospect of a devastating war in the Middle East closer than ever. During the past four months, the voices of reason have been submerged by the loud cries of warmongering emanating predominantly from the West. One voice that has not ceased to call for reason and peace, refusing to be submerged by the calls to war, is that of His Majesty King Hussein.

Long before the (President Francois) Mitterrand proposals were declared at the United Nations, and Ted Heath's humanitarian mission to Baghdad, King Hussein was calling for a peaceful solution to the crisis, within an Arab framework. The Jordanian position has been intentionally ignored by the Western media to the detriment of peaceful options.

King Hussein's position can best be understood in terms of Jordan's central role in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Since 1967, King Hussein has been continuously seeking a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution to the Palestine question, the central issue of the Middle East problem. This sought after solution would be based on the implementation of the relevant U.N. resolutions, most notably, U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

King Hussein has repeatedly warned, over the course of the past 23 years, that the continuing absence of such a solution will be eventually detrimental to the future of the region. As any observer can determine now, the King's predictions have proven to be true. The King understands the deep sense of injustice felt by all Arabs, vis-a-vis the Western responsibility in godfathering the state of Israel, and their lack of commitment in pressuring Israel into a compromise, peaceful, formula. In spite of this, and other intense pressures over the years, Jordan has maintained a moderating Arab role, that emphasises Arab friendliness of the West, if the latter responds, even slightly, in a positive tone to Arab long-standing demands. Unfortunately, Jordanian voices of moderation and reason have always been met with intransigent Israeli attitudes.

Years of experience have taught King Hussein that Arab solidarity is the most important element in preserving the Arab Nation, and protecting its interests. This was the most important factor that led King Hussein to extend his unequivocal support to Iraq, in its long war with Iran, since 1980. The Arab interest

dictated Jordan's total support for Iraq, and the King readily obliged.

In this latest crisis, Jordan's position is very clear. The government has condemned the invasion of Kuwait, in total consistency with Jordan's firm resolutions calling for sanctions in consistency with Jordan's tireless calls for upholding all U.N. resolutions.

Even before the invasion took place, King Hussein's efforts aimed at reaching a peaceful solution to the Iraq-Kuwait dispute, in purely Arab context. These balanced efforts were torpedoed by the arrival of the Western troops in the region, and by the rash behaviour of other Arab leaders, who left no room for the King to manoeuvre. The Western economic interest overrode all other considerations in Washington and other Western capitals, dealing a serious blow to Arab peaceful moves.

It is with such a background, that Amman has bitterly denounced the presence of foreign troops in the Arabian Peninsula. With the continuing absence of justice for Palestine and the Palestinians, the presence of Western military power on Arab soil can only fuel radical sentiments in the Arab World endangering the existing Arab political order, which will deal a death blow to Western interests in the area in the long term.

King Hussein is the only leader at the present time, who can successfully mediate a peaceful end to a highly explosive and dangerous situation. He is the only leader who has argued sensibly for an Arab solution to the problem, that would safeguard lives in the area. Indeed, his efforts provide the sole means to protect the long term Western interests in the region. Western decision-makers would be wiser to listen to him rather than follow the advice of those calling for war and destruction. It is not yet too late to heed the advice given by one of the most experienced statesmen in the world today, and certainly the most familiar with the complex terrain of Arab politics and disputes.

If the international consensus is calling for a peaceful solution, and one certainly hopes that it is, then perhaps credit should be given to a leader who prescribed such a solution, (and who still has a way to forge one), since Aug. 2, 1990.

Mrs. Lyl Harding
London

Baker

(Continued from page 1)

proposal that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz come to Washington next week and that Baker go to Baghdad was the last, best chance for a peaceful solution.

He said he would not negotiate about complete, immediate and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, nor would he begin negotiating on other Middle East disputes such as the Palestinian question or Lebanon.

"My mission to Baghdad will be an attempt to explain to Saddam the choices he faces: Comply with the objectives of the Security Council or risk disaster for Iraq," he said.

William Webster, director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), testified before another congressional panel that there was no assurance the U.N.

embargo against Iraq would force it to withdraw from Kuwait.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Wednesday the five members of the United Nations Security Council will meet in Europe in the next few days to discuss peace efforts in the Gulf.

Dumas told parliament: "My colleagues, permanent members of the Security Council, will be meeting in Europe in the next few days, I hope, to continue debating the chances of negotiations with the Iraqi government."

The French minister repeated Paris was willing to discuss broader Middle East problems with Iraq provided Baghdad complied with U.N. resolutions and withdrew from Kuwait and release foreigners.

Dumas said at the weekend he did not exclude travelling to

Baghdad, but would not go before Baker's expected meeting with Iraqi leaders between mid-December and mid-January.

In other developments: The French army is considering reinforcing its highly mobile but lightly-armed contingent in Saudi Arabia to give it a better offensive capacity, military sources said Wednesday.

A new wave of American troops that will give multinational forces what Bush calls offensive capabilities against Iraq began arriving in Saudi Arabia Wednesday.

Iraq Wednesday began processing exit permits for Soviet citizens after the ruling Revolutionary Command Council decreed that all 3,232 experts still stranded in the country may leave if they wish.

A Soviet diplomat said more than 200 exit visas were issued before the interior ministry closed for the day.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry welcomed the Iraqi decision to allow all Soviets to leave the country and said preparations, likely to include special charter flights, were under way.

Canberra's Ambassador to Baghdad Peter Lloyd said Iraq has agreed to free seven Australians and they are expected to leave for home in the next few days.

A 57-year-old Briton held by Iraq at a strategic site has died in captivity, apparently from a heart attack, a British embassy official said.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London identified the dead man as Donald Major. The embassy official said Major died Tuesday at the undisclosed strategic site where he was being held.

An unidentified colleague freed by Iraq informed the British embassy in Baghdad of Major's death and said he apparently died of a heart attack.

Bush

(Continued from page 1)

officials from Iraq, the PLO, Jordan and Yemen to discuss Bush's proposal to send Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad and to invite Aziz to Washington, Radio France Internationale said.

"The Baghdad meeting was to study the current situation, as well as to fix a date for the Iraqi-American meeting, which was fixed for Dec. 17," Abed Rabbo said in a telephone interview from Tunis.

He gave no other details about the meeting or how the date was determined.

In Washington, Bill Harlow, a White House spokesman, said no date has been set for the meeting with Aziz. Bush said it would take place the week of Dec. 10, and that Baker would visit Iraq before Jan. 15.

Sky News, the British satellite television channel, reported late Tuesday that Iraq would be willing to withdraw from Kuwait in exchange for a guarantee of no Western attack and retention of the Kuwaiti part of the Rumaila oil fields.

"It's sort of plausible that they might want to present something like this (but) we're not aware of these elements as a package," a State Department official told Reuters, referring to the report which pushed stock prices higher in late trading.

delegation

(Continued from page 1)

sovereignty," said Rab'i, an outspoken critic of the emiri regime.

During its visit to Amman, the delegation was received by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. They also held public debates, at which they were constantly challenged to condemn the foreign military intervention in the Gulf.

Many Jordanians who support a withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait as part of a settlement which guarantees Iraqi security and economic concerns were disappointed by what they viewed as the Kuwaiti opposition's inability to disassociate itself from the pro-American policies of the emiri regime.

Some political groups even boycotted the delegation for its failure to explicitly condemn the foreign military intervention.

The boycott, however, was criticised by many political activists — from the left and the right — who argued that it

was undemocratic regardless of the line the visitors represented.

During Wednesday's press conference, at the Plaza Hotel, a short interesting exchange took place between the Kuwaiti delegation and an Iraqi journalist which the Kuwaitis described as the first "Iraqi-Kuwaiti dialogue" since the beginning of the crisis.

Rab'i almost interrupted the proceedings to welcome the correspondent of the official Iraqi News Agency (INA).

"Your presence here is an indication that you recognise us as Kuwaiti people," said Rab'i.

"I am here because it is my right as a journalist and it does not mean that I recognise you," the journalist retorted.

"Never mind, you are welcome here; this might prove to be the first Iraqi-Kuwaiti dialogue," Rab'i replied.

The Iraqi remained quiet and only interrupted once to defend his country. The Kuwaitis gave him the floor and listened to his short remark.

The journalist was angered by claims by Rab'i that Iraq squandered its money and resources in the 1980-1988 war with Iran. "It is not Kuwait's fault if Iraq squandered its money and resources in war with Iran," Rab'i said.

"It seems that you have forgotten we were defending Kuwait," the Iraqi journalist replied.

Kuwait against attack

A member of the Kuwaiti delegation later said that the team had been promoting proposals which involve Arab pressures on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and similar simultaneous pressure to seek international guarantees that Iraq will not be attacked during or after a pullout from the emirate.

Mubarak Douwailah, an Islamist member of the Kuwaiti opposition, told the Jordan Times that the toppled Kuwaiti emir did not oppose such an arrangement.

"We have discussed the proposals with him and he did not express any objections," he said after Wednesday's press conference.

Earlier in the press conference Douwailah implied that the Kuwaiti team was promoting a Kuwaiti peace plan.

"We have been presenting (Arab leaders) with a modest formula for a settlement (of the Gulf crisis)," Douwailah said.

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Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Gulf crisis costing Saudis much of new oil wealth

LONDON (R) — Saudi Arabia has boosted crude oil output to an average 7.8 million barrels per day, but 40 per cent of the extra revenue will go towards keeping production high and helping to maintain the U.S.-led multinational force in the kingdom, according to the Saudi deputy finance minister.

Abdul Aziz Al Otaibi told Reuters Saudi Arabia estimated it would be left with no more than \$30 billion of revenue from oil in 1990 after meeting costs arising from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August.

He said Saudi Arabia estimated it would have a budget deficit of \$6 billion in 1990.

The cost feeding the 500,000 U.S. and other troops stationed in Saudi Arabia, and keeping them supplied with fuel would cost Saudi Arabia \$10 billion in 1990, Otaibi said.

The figure also covered help to countries affected by U.N. economic sanctions against Iraq and support for Kuwaiti refugees who fled their country after the invasion.

Saudi Arabia was also committed to spend \$4.7 billion this year alone towards the cost of increasing its production capacity from the pre-invasion level of 5.38 million barrels per day, Otaibi said.

He expected the deficit to continue into fiscal 1991.

The prospect of talks between Washington and Baghdad and the possibility of an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait could cause a drop in the price of oil from current levels of around \$30 a barrel and affect projections for the next budget.

Saudi Arabia boosted oil output from its OPEC-assigned quota of 5.38 million barrels per day above seven million barrels to make up for a potential shortfall after Iraq and Kuwait supply was boycotted.

Even calculating a price at \$20, Saudi Arabia would still face a deficit and will have to draw on its reserves and cut spending, Otaibi said.

"The windfall that is being talked about is more imagined than real," he added, referring to analyses suggesting that the increased output was a windfall for Gulf producers.

Economists had predicted the kingdom's revenues would increase by up to 60 per cent to 190 billion riyals (\$50 billion) in 1990, assuming oil prices in a range of \$20 to \$30.

Saudi Arabia had set spending at 143 billion riyals (\$38 billion) in 1990.

Another Saudi official, Prince Abdullah Ben Faisal Ben Turki, told a London news conference it was costing Saudi Arabia between \$200 and \$300 million a day to maintain the multinational force in the country.

French missiles to Saudis

French defence and electronics group Thomson CSF said Tuesday it has signed a \$680 million contract with Saudi Arabia to supply Crotale anti-aircraft missile systems.

It was believed to be the largest contract signed this year by any French arms company.

The announcement confirmed a report that appeared Thursday in French daily Le Monde. At the time, Thomson said only that a deal was being negotiated.

Thomson said in a statement the systems will be delivered as soon as possible.

The Crotale system is a ground-to-air system mounted on a four-wheel-drive self-propelled vehicle that can be transported by military aircraft. It can be used in all weather and offers anti-aircraft protection of fixed installations and mobile units.

The most recent version of the system is designed to defeat the latest operational types of air threats, including Stealth technology, high speed attack, very low altitude flight and saturation attacks. It is in service with the French and Finnish armies.

Saudi Arabia has already ordered Crotale systems from France in 1979 and 1984.

French accounts

The Gulf crisis will cost France's armed forces 1.27 billion francs (\$253 million) in 1990, official figures released Tuesday showed.

The figures appeared in Defence Ministry cost estimates for the year's unexpected overseas military operations — totalling 2.93 billion francs (\$586 million) — currently awaiting parliament's approval.

The Defence Ministry is asking parliament to add an extra 1.67 billion francs (\$334 million) immediately to 1990's military budget of 230.77 billion francs (\$46.15 billion). The difference will be found elsewhere or voted into the 1991 budget.

The Gulf operation, in which more than 6,000 French soldiers were sent to Saudi Arabia, was the largest unexpected operation of the year, the defence documents said.

Others included French military intervention in the African states of Chad, Gabon, the Central African Republic and the Comoro Islands as well as in Lebanon.

Bonn's costs

Germany, prevented by its constitution from sending troops to the Gulf, is giving U.S. forces 680 million marks (\$450 million) of military support equipment for the build-up against Iraq, the Defence Ministry said.

A ministry spokesman said some of the equipment was from the communist military of former East Germany, now being integrated into the united German army.

It includes such items as transport vehicles, construction equipment, tents and portable showers.

The equipment is part of a 3.5 billion-mark (\$2.2 billion) Gulf aid package Chancellor Helmut Kohl promised the United States in September.

Greek workers strike

ATHENS (R) — A proposed labour law aimed at curbing work stoppages sparked a general strike by about a million Greeks Wednesday.

The stoppages, to last 43 hours, was called by the General Confederation of Greek Workers (GSEE), which groups 78 unions with members throughout the private and public sectors.

Work at banks and public offices was disrupted, as were public services including telephones, mail and water supplies.

Buses and trains stopped, garbage piled up in central streets and electricity workers warned of power blackouts.

GSEE Spokesman Rovortos Spyropoulos told Reuters: "The strike is going very well and the percentage of participation is about 90 per cent."

No government figures were immediately available.

Teachers, hospital doctors and workers at state-owned Olympic Airways were expected to join the strike Thursday.

Similar action by the GSEE in September, against a social security bill, brought chaos to the country for three weeks.

Under the draft labour law, employees could be fired for joining a strike declared illegal by a court, for stopping others from working, or for refusing to serve on skeleton staffs during a strike.

The bill, written by the Conservative government which came to power in April, was being sent to the conservative-controlled parliament for debate later Wednesday and was expected to be passed within a week.

Political commentators said it aimed to discourage strikes against an austere 1991 budget presented last week.

"The bill aims to keep workers from the only means they have to fight for their rights and to turn unions into powerless groups. But the fundamental right to strike was won after years of struggle and no law can take it away," GSEE President Lambros Kanellopoulos told reporters.

Iraq, Kuwait to attend oil ministers meeting

Gulf crisis not on OPAPEC agenda

CAIRO (R) — Representatives from Iraq and Kuwait will attend an Arab oil ministers meeting in Cairo this week but the Gulf crisis is not expected to be on the agenda, officials said Wednesday.

Iraq's ambassador to Cairo, Nabil Nejm Al Takriti, told Reuters he would represent his country at the 10-member Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPPEC) ministerial meeting which opens Dec. 5.

"It will be a routine meeting," the envoy said, adding that Baghdad did not plan to present any proposals concerning the Gulf crisis.

OAPPEC experts met in Cairo Wednesday to draw up the agenda which focuses on the organisation's 1991 work plan and budget. The office of Egyptian Oil Minister Abdel Hadi Kandeeel said the Gulf crisis was not on the agenda.

One expert said member states responded favourably to an Egyptian request to keep inter-Arab political disputes like the Gulf crisis off the agenda.

"Members responded... to the Egyptian request... to prepare the ground for a successful ministerial meeting on Saturday," said Egyptian delegate Abdullah Hussein.

Egypt has bitterly opposed Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and Kandeeel said any Iraqi attempt to block Kuwait's participation at the Cairo meeting would fail.

Kandeeel told Reuters in an interview in October there had been no requests to move OAPPEC's headquarters from Iraqi-occupied Kuwait to another Arab capital, adding that Egypt did not wish to bring it to Cairo.

Gulf-based officials said last week some Gulf Arab members might propose a temporary move to Cairo, where the Arab League is located.

OAPPEC has been virtually paralysed since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Its Secretary-General Abdul Aziz Al Turki from Saudi Arabia has been operating out of Jeddah.

Iraq had earlier asked for the OAPPEC meeting to be held in Europe to precede a conference of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on Dec. 12 in Vienna.

Kandeeel said the other members turned down the request.

OAPPEC groups seven

OPEC members — Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Libya, Algeria, Iraq and Kuwait — with small Arab producers Syria, Egypt and Bahrain.

Unlike OPEC, the Arab group does not discuss oil prices and production policies of its member-states. It only promotes inter-Arab cooperation in energy fields.

But its meetings have often provided an opportunity for major Arab oil producers to coordinate policies ahead of OPEC conferences.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sacked his Oil Minister Issam Al Chalabi last October and appointed his son-in-law and Minister of Industry and Military Industrialisation Hussein Kamel Hassan as acting oil minister.

Iraq has been unable to export any oil since Aug. 6 when the United Nations slapped a trade ban against Baghdad to force it to quit Kuwait.

The loss of more than four million barrels per day (bpd) from Iraq and Kuwait has been largely replaced by increased production from Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Venezuela.

IEA: Oil output up, stocks at 10-year high

PARIS (R) — World oil production is running flat out and stocks are at 10-year highs in a climate of falling demand, the International Energy Agency (IEA) reported Wednesday.

Crude oil prices have fluctuated wildly since Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2 and the United Nations imposed an embargo on oil from both countries. Major producing countries have increased output to make up for the Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude which the restrictions have kept off the market.

Production by the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) rose 600,000 barrels per day (bpd) from October levels to hit 22.9 million bpd in November and lifted world supplies, excluding the former communist bloc, to 53.8 million bpd — the highest since May.

But Soviet shipments declined. The Paris-based IEA, the West's energy watchdog body, put Soviet exports to the West at 1.4 million bpd since September, down 300,000 barrels from the average of the first nine months of the year.

Oil markets are being comforted by generally ready supplies of crude. As a result prices are currently around \$30 a barrel, \$10 below the highs set in early October, but still 50 per cent above those just before Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Prices fell \$4 Friday on hopes that a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis could be found before a United Nations deadline of Jan. 15 passes for Iraq to get out of Kuwait.

Preliminary IEA data showed oil stocks in the 24 industrialised members of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development totalled 473.4 million tonnes on Nov. 1, 10.7 million more than the same month last year and the highest since 1981.

World trade bargaining on hold

By Sally Jacobsen

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Negotiations to revamp the world trading system have been put on hold to increase pressure on the European Community to accept U.S.-backed demands for deep cuts in government payments to farmers.

The conference is in a very serious impasse," said Uruguay Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell, who is presiding over the negotiations.

No formal meetings were scheduled for Wednesday, considered the critical day in the week-long bargaining of the 107-nation Uruguay Round, the most far-reaching trade talks ever.

Breakthroughs are needed, Gros Espiell said, by late Wednesday in a number of areas, especially agriculture, "if this meeting is to end with a package of results truly meaningful for all participants."

Friday was the last scheduled day of talks.

The Uruguay Round of negotiations, held under the auspices of the GATT trade agreement, kicked off in 1986 in the Uruguayan resort of Punta del Este. The negotiations are designed to overhaul world trade in 15 areas, including agriculture, manufactured goods, textiles and services, such as telecommunications, transportation and banking.

The European Community's refusal to go along with deep cuts in agriculture subsidies — as demanded by the United States, Argentina and other nations — has stalled the bargaining.

U.S. Democrats suggest war tax

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some top congressional Democrats say that if war breaks out in the Gulf, lawmakers should consider an income tax surcharge to raise the tens of billions of dollars the idea — similar to the surtax that helped finance the Vietnam war — drew a negative response from one White House official and a mostly sceptical reaction from several Republican congressional leaders Tuesday.

Nonetheless, some Democrats say a war against Iraq would be so expensive that it would be a blow to the weakening economy if the government was forced to borrow the money.

"War is a very expensive proposition," said Senate Budget Committee Chairman James Sasser of Tennessee, who was among the first to publicly discuss the idea. "If we go into a war, we have to find some way to pay for it, not to shove these costs onto future generations by borrowing."

The proposal has yet to be embraced by House Speaker Thomas Foley or Senate majority leader George Mitchell. But for Democrats sceptical of attacking Iraq soon, calling for a surtax underscores the domestic price of going to war.

Sasser said he envisions a surtax of about five per cent to 10 per cent.

During the height of U.S. involvement in South-east Asia, President Lyndon Johnson persuaded Congress to approve a 10 per cent income tax surcharge to pay for the war. Taxpayers would calculate the amount of money they owed the government, and simply increase it by 10 per cent.

The surtax was in effect from April 1968 through December 1969. Because of it, fiscal 1969 was the last time the federal budget ran a surplus, finishing \$5.2 billion in the black.

Democratic Congressman Leon Panetta of California, chairman of the House Budget Committee, agreed that a surtax should be weighed if fighting breaks out in the Gulf.

"The prevalent view is if we sustain our current level of operations, we'd be able to handle that," Panetta said. "When you go beyond that into a full-scale war, that's when the question marks start coming."

One White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it would be premature to talk about using a surtax to pay for a war against Iraq.

"And it's not clear that that's the way to go," the official said.

The administration has not released an estimate of what a war in the Gulf would cost.

In September, when the United States was building a force of 240,000 troops, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said the price of maintaining it would be \$15 billion this fiscal year. Last month, President George Bush said he would add 200,000 troops to the total, but the administration has provided no new cost estimate.

Democrats, citing studies by private defence analysts, say fighting could cost \$1 billion to \$2 billion per day. Republicans, using experts of their own, say a three-month war could cost \$15 billion to \$30 billion.

Philippines raises oil prices by 45%

MANILA (R) — The Philippines raised domestic oil and gas prices by an average 45 per cent on Wednesday because of the Gulf crisis, the government's energy regulatory board said.

Motorists were hit hardest, with prices of premium petrol going up by almost 80 per cent. The increase in fuel oil prices for industry and the power sector was a low 1.37 per cent.

It was the second sharp increase in oil prices in the Philippines since Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2. On Sept. 21, the government raised prices by an average 32 per cent.

The Philippines, which imports almost all its oil, has been under pressure from the International Monetary Fund to remove subsidies on petrol and fuel oil and curb a widening public sector deficit.

But President Corason Aquino's government has been apprehensive about increasing prices too quickly in case army rebels, who have tried to oust Aquino six times, used the issue as an excuse for another coup attempt.

Two previous coup bids followed oil price increases — in August 1987 and last December.

The price of premium petrol was raised to 15.95 pesos (57 U.S. cents) a litre from 8.87 pesos (31 cents).

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WORLD STOCK MARKET

By Reuters

TOKYO — Stocks closed higher after hopes of a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis overcame concern about the worsening state of the Japanese economy. The Nikkei Index closed 331.111 up at 22,193.72.

SYDNEY — A late upswing in Tokyo pushed shares higher. The All Ordinaries ended 5.0 up at 1,322.0.

HONG KONG — Stocks ended higher on active overseas buying and renewed hopes for peace in the Gulf. The Hang Seng Index rose 45.39 to close at 3,066.23.

FRANKFURT — German shares rose on optimism over the Gulf crisis. The Dax Index rose 24.62 to 1,470.96.

PARIS — Renewed investor optimism pushed French shares higher at the close, although the market faltered after U.S. threats of massive military action against Iraq. The CAC-40 index closed 13.91 points higher at 1,660.44.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed up but off their highs as sentiment turned cautious in the afternoon. The All-Share SPI Index was up six points at 918.6, an increase of 0.66 pct.

LONDON — Shares gained modestly at the close, helped by a steady performance on Wall Street. The FTSE closed up 6.3 points at 2,152.6.

NEW YORK — Blue chips were firm, gaining continued support from weak oil prices and a strong financial sector. The Dow index rose four to 2,583.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, November 5, 1990
Central Bank official rates

Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	661.0 665.0
Pound Sterling	1276.7 1284.4
Deutsche mark	441.0 443.6
Swiss franc	517.2 520.3
French franc	130.4 131.2
Japanese yen (for 100)	495.5 498.5
Dutch guilder	391.1 393.4
Swedish crown	117.6 118.3
Italian lira (for 100)	58.7 59.1
Belgian franc (for 10)	213.0 214.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.9370/80	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1625/35	Canadian dollar
	1.4930/40	Deutsche marks
	1.6860/70	Dutch guilders
	1.2745/50	Swiss francs
	30.95/51.00	Belgian francs
	5.0550/6000	French francs
	1123/1124	Italian lire
	134.00/10	Japanese yen
	5.6100/50	Swedish crowns
	5.8490/8540	Norwegian crowns
	5.6060/6110	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	377.10/60	U.S. dollars

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Cinema Tel: 634144

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ROOF TOPS

Show: 13:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

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Kamal Al Shinnawi, Iham Shahin, Farouq Al Fishawi

APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT

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Bangladesh celebrates Ershad's resignation

DHAKA (R) — Tens of thousands of people rejoicing at the resignation of President Hossein Mohammad Ershad ignored security cordons and marched through the Bangladesh capital Dhaka Wednesday.

Many carried huge portraits of assassinated presidents Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and General Ziaur Rahman, whose daughter and wife spearheaded a fierce campaign to topple Ershad, the country's longest-serving ruler.

Witnesses said groups in the estimated 150,000-strong crowd staged displays of dance, music and drama.

They said street celebrations would continue until Ershad handed power to a caretaker vice-president to lead Bangladesh until new elections were held.

Police and army guarding strategic centres in the city of six million people quietly retreated as waves of jubilant demonstrators, some wearing masks, poured out the streets.

Backstage, key opposition leaders held crucial meetings in a scramble to find a temporary successor to Ershad who resigned

Tuesday, bowing to demands that he step down.

"We are still waiting for consensus on a future vice-president and discussing other issues," one opposition leader said.

When he resigned Tuesday Ershad called a special session of parliament for Saturday to name a vice-president who would head a caretaker government until elections.

Ershad said in his national broadcast that parliamentary elections would be held before a presidential poll and he would stand as presidential candidate for his Jatiya Party.

As the carnival mood spread, opposition leaders warned Bangladeshis against turning rejoicing into rampage.

"Don't take law into your own hands," said Sheikh Hasina, chief of the Awami League, after reports of widespread revenge attacks, looting and arson in Dhaka soon after Ershad's announcement.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party head Begum Khaleda Zia said: "We congratulate all people for taking our long-drawn movement

to victory through sacrifices. But the extreme need of the hour is maintenance of orderliness.

"We must guard against vengeance and personal feuds that might seriously harm our political aims."

The two leaders made the appeal Wednesday in their first appearance on state-run television after Ershad said he would resign to pave way for free and fair elections.

Journalists who went on strike when Ershad declared a state of emergency on Nov. 27 suspended their action Wednesday but opposition parties have not yet decided whether to call off the eight-hour daily stoppage started Tuesday and there were no cars, buses or trucks on the streets Wednesday.

Twenty-two opposition groups had called on all workers to go on strike for eight hours a day from Tuesday.

More than 80 people were killed and 600 injured in clashes between security forces and demonstrators protesting against the emergency, according to witnesses' accounts.



Hossein Mohammad Ershad

Ershad had proposed a 10-point peace plan Monday offering to lift the state of emergency on Dec. 16 but opposition parties rejected his overture, saying the former general, who seized power in a 1982 bloodless coup, was trying to buy time. They demanded he quit first.

Ershad ruled Bangladesh under martial law for nearly four and a half years before restoring civilian rule in 1986.

His resignation was the culmination of a fierce, three-year campaign to topple him conducted by the 22 opposition groups who say he ran a corrupt, illegal and autocratic government.

Deby named interim Chad leader

N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP) — Rebel commander Idriss Deby, the new interim leader of Chad, says he will implement multiparty democracy in this nation of 5.4 million people.

Deby, who ousted President Hissene Habre after three weeks of fighting, called for unity and promised democratic reforms in a nationwide radio address Tuesday.

"I stress that there cannot be democracy without political pluralism and secularism," he said. He called on Chadian dissidents in exile to return, saying he was "inviting all the sons of Chad to a sincere pardon to solve our problems democratically."

He also expressed his determination to keep the mineral-rich Aouzou Strip in northern Chad, which is claimed by Libya.

"We will defend our national unity, the territorial integrity of Chad within its borders inherited from colonialism," Deby said.

Deby, 38, was named interim head of state by the executive committee of his Patriotic Salvation Movement. The duration of his term was not announced.

The Executive Committee created a state council under Deby's control and replaced the nation's constitution, which had been sus-

pended Monday when Deby dissolved the National Assembly.

Deby had said earlier that he wanted to establish a democratic government as quickly as possible. French Ambassador Francois Gendreau said.

Chad is a former French protectorate and was incorporated into French Equatorial Africa before gaining independence in 1960.

French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement said France, which withdrew 150 soldiers Tuesday, decided to remain neutral during the battle for leadership in its former colony.

"We did not let Hissene Habre fall," he said. "We simply gave the order for our Jaguars (warplanes) to not bomb or strafe Idriss Deby's columns."

Habre fled the country, reportedly to neighbouring Cameroon, on Saturday after a three-week war in which government troops were routed by rebel soldiers loyal to Deby.

A day later Deby made a triumphant entry into N'Djamena.

On Monday Deby began a series of consultations, meeting with U.S. Ambassador Richard Bogosian and senior Libyan offi-

cials, including the army chief of staff. There were no immediate details of their talks.

Habre took his family and eight cabinet ministers to Maroua in Cameroon, according to the state newspaper the Cameroon Tribune.

Deby was Habre's chief aide in a 1982 coup, but broke away last year and formed a rebel movement. Habre and U.S. officials claim Libya actively backed Deby's rebellion, but the Libyans and Deby deny it.

Libya's army occupied northern Chad in 1983 and 1986, prompting France to send troops to back Habre. Libya was driven out in a series of battles masterminded by Deby in 1987.

Meanwhile two planeloads of Libyan prisoners of war arrived home from Chad after being released by rebels who seized power in N'Djamena.

The prisoners, who had been held for up to nine years, returned Tuesday night, the Libyan News Agency (JANA) said. Well-wishers chanting revolutionary slogans greeted them with flowers.

The Libyans were released by Deby, who has close ties to Tripoli, after his forces took control of N'Djamena Sunday.

EC ready to give food aid to Moscow

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) is ready to give the Soviet Union food aid worth between \$1 and \$2 billion, a Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

EC foreign ministers agreed in principle to give the aid at a meeting Tuesday, the spokesman said, confirming remarks made by Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens.

"There was a consensus on the principle of sending food aid," the spokesman said. Eyskens said the help necessary would amount to between \$1 and \$2 billion, he added.

Jacques Delors, president of the EC's Executive Commission, declined to say after the meeting how much aid was needed. He promised to make detailed proposals to EC leaders, who will take the final decision, at their summit in Rome on Dec. 14-15.

Delors also called for purchase credits, balance of payments support and funds to ensure the convertibility of the rouble, as part of a campaign to fill the empty shelves of Soviet shops.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said the 12 EC member states favoured giving food, but he was more reticent on the financial aspects of any aid package. EC finance ministers would consider these at a special meeting Dec. 10, he noted.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev appeared in Paris last month for aid to help his country survive the winter. No formal request has been made to the EC, but earlier this week a Soviet delegation handed the commission a list of scarce goods.

Delors and Hurd both stressed that shortages of food and consumer goods in the Soviet Union

were due to distribution failures caused by the dismantling of the command economy rather than to falling production.

Potential donor states have expressed concern that any aid given might be marooned in depots or diverted to the black market and never reach the intended recipients.

The EC ministers agreed to push for Soviet membership of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, which would open the way for balance of payments aid from these institutions, the Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

They favoured boosting EC purchases from the Soviet Union in the energy sector and wanted to give large-scale technical assistance, notably to improve distribution, he said.

Salvador rebels down air force plane

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — Guerrillas using a surface-to-air missile have downed a Salvadoran Air Force plane in north El Salvador, the Armed Forces Press Office said, the second such incident since a rebel offensive began two weeks ago.

The office, known as Coprefa, reported fighting in at least five of the country's 14 departments, or states. Tuesday with a toll of 18 dead and 24 wounded, most of them combatants.

Since the rebel offensive began at least 220 people have been killed and 500 wounded.

It said an AC-47 gunship was supporting troops in the La Laguna area of Chalatenango province 80 kilometres north of the capital where fighting has killed four government troops and eight guerrillas since Monday.

There was no immediate word on the fate of the crew. On Nov. 23 a rebel rocket downed an A-37 fighter bomber over eastern El Salvador, the first such incident with a missile in 11 years of civil war.

Coprefa reported a rebel artillery attack on bases in the eastern city of Usulután 70 miles east of the capital, but said there were no injuries to government troops. It said five rebels died in the fighting there.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, in its daily radio broadcast, claimed to have killed or wounded 23 government troops and captured two.

The left says the offensive was launched to push along a stalled peace process.

President Alfredo Cristiani has said the offensive could endanger the peace talks, although U.N. officials have said they see no immediate danger of that.

The United States has halved its proposed \$85 million in military aid to El Salvador because of human rights issues. The army has been implicated in the slaying of six Jesuit priests a year ago.

El Salvador could risk losing the other half of the aid if it boycotts the peace process.

Manila: U.S. making onerous demands

MANILA (R) — U.S. and Philippine officials failed Wednesday to resolve disputes over whose law should apply to American troops in the country, and Manila accused Washington of making onerous demands.

A spokesman for the Philippine panel negotiating a new bases agreement with the United States said Manila had rejected U.S. proposals to limit Philippine legal jurisdiction inside the bases, saying such limits violated the country's sovereignty.

Wednesday's third round of talks coincided with a Manila decision to raise fuel prices sharply, and a Philippine official said the negotiations, which are planned to last until Friday, might be shortened if demonstrations occurred.

The proposed new treaty calls

for reduced U.S. military presence in its former colony.

The current agreement which allows Washington to operate Subic Naval Base, Clark Air Base and four smaller facilities expires in September next year.

Philippine spokesman Rafael Alunan said the U.S. panel proposed that Manila waive its legal jurisdiction over U.S. servicemen facing criminal charges, except in certain cases, and that U.S. consent was needed in case of searches of U.S. facilities and property.

"We find (the) two points... rather onerous," Alunan told a press briefing. "We have rejected (them)."

U.S. spokesman Stanley Schragger said the two sides remained optimistic they could reach a new

agreement by January.

"We're confident that we can resolve many issues that at this point may look difficult," Schragger told reporters. "This is not an insurmountable problem."

Officials said talks on military aspects of the proposed new treaty were progressing.

Alunan said the U.S. panel agreed that any new treaty would give the Philippines the right to set ceilings on reduced U.S. troop strengths. He gave no details.

Schragger said chief U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage stressed at Wednesday's session that the United States was flexible.

The Philippine panel, headed by Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, wants control of Clark and four smaller facilities when the current agreement lapses.

Polish struggle inspires world democracies — Cheney

GDANSK, Poland (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, making a pilgrimage to the birthplace of Solidarity, said Wednesday Poland's struggle against communism was an example to the world.

Laying a wreath to Gdansk workers shot by Communist troops in 1970, Cheney said a towering monument erected to them by Solidarity was "an inspiration for democracy everywhere."

"It is a special privilege for me to have the opportunity to visit with you," he told Solidarity union leader Lech Walesa after flying from Warsaw at the end of a two-day visit to Poland, his first to East European country.

Cheney, who was to travel to Brussels later for a meeting of NATO defence ministers, told reporters in Warsaw the Western alliance must remain the pillar of

European security despite the crumbling of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact.

He said Washington was eager to establish close ties with Poland and other emerging East European democracies.

Walesa, who is expected to win Poland's presidential election Sunday against outsider Stanislaw Tyminski, told Cheney economic troubles threatened the country's fledgling democracy.

"Right now our revolution is a little bit threatened... we got rid of the Communist threat, but after the politics have been changed we have to take care of the economics," he said.

The Solidarity leader has accused Tyminski, who is riding a wave of popular discontent at the hardships brought by the switch to a market economy, of being a front for counter-revolutionary plotters.

Tyminski, Walesa swap insults

JASTRZEBIE, Poland (AP) — Dark horse presidential candidate Stanislaw Tyminski led miners in chants of "down with Walesa" at a rally that grew ugly with fistfights and arguments.

Tyminski — an emigre businessman who returned to Poland after 21 years to run for president — made a home-stretch campaign trip into the mining region of Silesia, where he did well in the first round of voting on Nov. 25.

Saying "Walesa is finished" at a raucous 90-minute rally before 3,000 people, Tyminski predicted victory against Solidarity leader Lech Walesa in the runoff Sunday to name Poland's first popularly chosen president.

About 500 people in the sports hall were Walesa backers, and the rally turned into a tense shouting match between the camps, occasionally punctuated by fistfights.

Tuesday was the feast of St. Barbara, the patron saint of miners. Many at the rally had a free day and were drinking vodka before the evening event in this city 365 kilometres south of Warsaw.

"We are millions," Tyminski said shortly after arriving on stage to a roar of competing boos and cheers. "The decade of the '80s is coming to an end. Now a new decade begins, and this decade belongs to us."

Tyminski was also booed by Walesa partisans at rallies Monday in Warsaw and Sunday in Bialystok.

Noting that Walesa was appearing Tuesday night on a television show called "difficult questions," he said:

"I have only one question for Mr. Walesa. What did he and his government do in the last year and a half? He appointed this government and our country was destroyed, like it was done on purpose."

"How much hatred there is for Walesa in our country," he said. "Especially here in Silesia. Why didn't he come here?"

Tyminski said he had turned down an invitation Tuesday night to meet with U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, who is visiting Poland.

"They (the Americans) don't invite unreliable people," he said.

German Social Democrats struggle to repair image after poll defeat

BONN (AP) — Germany's once-great Social Democrats, facing their worst crisis in years, are reeling from an election debacle and desperately seeking a youthful leader with the talents of aging party warrior Willy Brandt. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition defeated the Social Democrats, led by challenger Oskar Lafontaine, in Sunday's election, the first all-German balloting in 58 years.

The Social Democrats are a party without a platform, crippled by internal divisions and in need of fresh leadership.

"The Social Democrats' biggest problem is their dearth of solidarity," said Renate Koecher, a researcher at the Allensbach Polling Institute.

The Social Democrats lost a half-million votes to Kohl's Christian Democrats in the opposition party's worst electoral showing since 1957. It was the Social Democrats' third defeat by Kohl since he came to power eight years ago.

Kohl's grasp on Germany's leadership is already being compared to that of Konrad Adenauer, West Germany's first chancellor, who held office for 14 years.

"It really is now a fairly unba-

lanced political system, with a very strong predominance of the government parties," said Peter Pulzer, an Oxford University Germany specialist who observed the elections.

It took Willy Brandt finally to dislodge Adenauer's Christian Democrats in 1969. The Social Democrats are now hunting for a leader who can do the same to Kohl.

Brandt, 76, is the Social Democrats' most popular member and is respected throughout the party. The Social Democrats' national image has been badly tarnished as a result of Sunday's election and their campaign tactics.

Lafontaine refused to embrace fully German unity during the campaign. The resulting damage was especially severe in former East Germany, where the party captured only 25 per cent of the vote. Social Democrats are now viewed by many there as political pariahs. "The party leadership needs rejuvenation," said National Chairman Hans-Jochen Vogel, who Tuesday announced plans to step down.

The party offered the leadership to 47-year-old Lafontaine, but he turned it down, saying he was too busy as governor of Saarland state. He also complained about

the half-hearted support his campaign received among some Social Democrats.

"It is impossible to conduct an election campaign without solidarity," Lafontaine said Tuesday. Other possible candidates for the top party job include Johannes Rau, Walter Momper and Bjoern Engholm.

Rau, 59, is the popular governor of North Rhine-Westphalia, but he lost heavily to Kohl in the 1987 chancellor race. Momper, the 45-year-old former mayor of Berlin, had been seen as a rising star within the Social Democrats' ranks, but he lost in Berlin City elections Sunday.

Engholm, the 51-year-old governor of Schleswig-Holstein state, is a dapper, pipe-smoking intellectual popular in his home state.

One of the Social Democrats' best orators — 47-year-old Herta and Paul Amirson — has also been mentioned for the job.

Regardless of who becomes the new party leader, observers say the Social Democrats need to come up with new ideas.

Lafontaine spent most of his campaign warning against the pitfalls of unification.

Panama officer seizes police HQ after jail break

PANAMA CITY (R) — A former Panamanian police chief who escaped from jail by helicopter occupied national police headquarters early Wednesday, but denied he was staging a coup against the U.S.-backed government.

Officials said Colonel Eduardo Herrera Hassan, who had been jailed since October on the island of Naos off Panama City for alleged complicity in an earlier coup plot, seized the police building with about a dozen armed followers five hours after Tuesday's escape.

Radio reports said U.S. troops had surrounded the building, less than a mile from Quarry Heights, head offices of the U.S. Southern Command, Washington's regional military headquarters.

Southern command spokesman could not be reached to confirm the reports but a Reuters photographer trying to reach the building was turned back by U.S. soldiers.

In broadcasts on the U.S. army television station, the command ordered a bravo alert, its second-highest restriction of movement for U.S. military personnel in Panama.

In a dawn radio statement, President Guillermo Endara told parents in the capital to keep their children home from school Wednesday.

Herrera allowed radio repor-

ters inside the police building, telling them he and his men were not promoting a coup but were calling for a "rights movement" for policemen.

"This is not a coup. It is a (rights) movement," he said, adding that he had been rescued from jail by policemen who wanted him to represent their cause.

"For me, today (Tuesday) was a surprise when around dinner time, a helicopter flew up. At first I didn't know who they were, until they took off their masks..." Herrera told KW Continental Radio.

He said the men were police officers who asked him to go with them and be their spokesman for complaints on how the police force was run and how its members were treated.

He said he was expecting representatives from the presidency to visit police headquarters for talks.

At a news conference after Herrera's escape, but before his appearance at the police building, Endara said his office had the situation under control.

But the incident raised the most serious fears of instability since Endara was installed during last December's U.S. invasion to oust strongman Manuel Noriega, now in a Miami jail awaiting trial on drug charges.

COLUMN

Madonna defends controversial new video

NEW YORK (AP) — She may dress "like a bimbo," but she's in charge of her fantasies and her life. That's what pop megastar Madonna told an interviewer just after the U.S. television network ABC aired her controversial video *Justify My Love* in its steamy entirety. The video, rejected by the cable music station MTV (Music Television) last week, features the bra-and-garter-belt-clad singer in an encounter with a lover, played by her real-life boyfriend, Tony Ward, in a Paris hotel. The video is intended to portray the couple's fantasies, which run to bisexual, voyeurism, group sex, cross-dressing and mild sadomasochism. "Half of me thought I was going to get away with it," said Madonna, speaking on the ABC-TV programme *Nightline* via satellite from Los Angeles. She said the video — with its chains, black leather and crucifixes — was about "honesty... and the celebration of sex. There's nothing wrong with that." But she said she believes in limits to what should be shown on TV: "I don't believe in gratuitous violence and I don't believe in degradation." "Why are we willing to deal with the reality of violence and sexism and why aren't we willing to deal with sexuality?" she asked. "If we're going to have censorship, let's not be hypocrites about this," Madonna added. "Why is it okay for 10-year-olds to see someone's body being ripped to shreds? ... Why do parents not have a problems with that?"

Liz Taylor's Van Gogh fails to sell at auction

LONDON (R) — A Van Gogh painting owned by film star Elizabeth Taylor failed to sell when bidding stopped at \$5.8 million (\$11.2 million), short of the undisclosed reserve price, Christie's auctioneers said. "View of the Asylum and the Chapel at Saint Remy," painted in 1889, had been forecast to fetch up to £10 million (\$19 million) in a sale seen as providing a barometer of the faltering art market. "I'm afraid we have a disappointing result, we've failed to sell the picture," a Christie's spokesman said. The fact that Taylor owned the painting, which depicts the asylum to which Van Gogh committed himself, was expected to provide an extra boost to the price. Taylor's father bought the painting for her in 1963 for \$92,000 (\$178,000 at the current exchange rate). Van Gogh's Portrait of Dr. Gachet sold for a record \$82.5 million last May but since then the market has been hit by economic recession.

Strikes end at Paris opera houses

PARIS (AP) — A weeklong strike by musicians at the Opera-Bastille and the Palais Garnier ended, opera officials said. The strike, which forced the cancellation of several performances last week, was resolved when musicians agreed to open negotiations with opera administrators. Productions of *Othello*, Tuesday and Saturday at the Opera-Bastille, and a dance premiere at the Palais Garnier Thursday will go on as planned.

Murders in New York hit new high

NEW YORK (R) — Gunned down for a fancy coat or shot dead at random, killings in New York have rocketed to a record of more than 2,000 so far this year and turned parts of the biggest U.S. city into a war zone. Officials Monday blamed the increase on a flood of illegal guns that have turned streets into battlegrounds. "We're making more arrests for guns, confiscating more weapons than we ever did before," said deputy Inspector Thomas Connolly. "There's no question about it. We have a proliferation of guns." Gunfire in New York at the weekend alone claimed the lives of at least seven people in seven hours, including a middle-aged businessman and a high school student. They were shot by thieves out to rob their companions' fancy coats. One coat was leather and the other mink. The violence also left a 53-year-old grandmother dead when a gunman fighting with another man on a street in the borough of Brooklyn missed his intended target, hitting the woman, police said. She was one of dozens of people killed by random gunfire this year, including at least nine children who have died.